Misuari meets Macapagal emissary in Zambo

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2001 ★★ 80 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 148 ₱15

NBI clears Quezon solon of drug raps

BY DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation has cleared outgoing Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr., Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. and Quezon police chief, Senior Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, of involvement in

NBI/ A5

State of rebellion lifted

Macapagal: We would have been massacred

BY ARMAND NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, confident that the threats posed by allies of ousted leader Joseph Estrada have been contained, last night lifted the declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila, five days after the military quelled an alleged coup attempt against her.

"The disorder has subsided. Threats against the Republic remain, but the situation is under control," the President said in a nationwide address on government television.

"The government is stable and the seat of the power is safe. The Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police are behind us," she said.

An hour before she went on the air, however, armed robbers exploded a grenade at the Farmers Plaza in Cubao, Quezon City, wounding at least 36 people. *(See story at right.)*

In her five-page statement, Ms Macapagal accused opposition leaders of exploiting the legitimate grievances of the so-called "Edsa Tres" crowd and inciting Estrada's mostly poor followers to attack Malacañang.

At least six people were killed and more than 100 were wounded when government troops dispersed the rioters, many of whom were armed with rocks, wooden clubs and even guns. Some were reportedly high on drugs.

"Many of the demonstrators were high on drugs. In their numbers, they almost got through to the Palace. Had that happened, we would have been massacred inside the Palace. Then our government would have fallen," Ms Macapagal said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the assault was part of an opposition plot to overthrow Ms Macapagal and set up a junta after killing her and Estrada, who is in jail on plunder charges. Opposition leaders have denied the accusation.

"We know the brains behind the rebellion. They were the ones who instigated the demonstrators to attack Malacañang on May 1. We

STATE/ A20

ROBBERY, not politics, was the motive behind the second grenade explosion in a Metro Manila mall in a week, say police amid coup jitters. A SWAT officer examines the bombsite at Farmers Plaza, where at least 36 were injured yesterday. DENNIS SABANGAN

'Martilyo Gang' strikes in QC

36 wounded in grenade blast after robbery at Farmers Plaza

DENNIS SABANGAN

ALL for a watch and some trinkets. A blast victim is treated at Quirino Memorial General Hospital in Quezon City.

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND DAVE VERIDIANO

AT LEAST 36 people were wounded, nine of them seriously and one critically, when armed robbers exploded a hand grenade following a heist at a Farmers Market jewelry store in Cubao, Quezon City, yesterday.

Agence France Presse, however, put the number of wounded at 42.

Among the seriously injured was mall security guard Freddie Pascua who was shot twice in his left side as he tried to stop the robbers from fleeing.

Critically wounded was Helen Mirafuente who suffered a gunshot wound in the head. She and 33 of the injured, including Pascua, were taken to the Quirino Memorial Labor Hospital. Two of the wounded were rushed to the Camp Panopio hospital also in Quezon City.

Two of the robbers were arrested, according to Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor, Central Police District (CPD) director, who declined to identify them. Another person was arrested for looting following the blast, Tor added.

The robbers, armed with .45 cal. pistols, barged into the Crystal Time jewelry store on the Farmers Plaza ground floor, broke its display windows with a hammer and scooped up assorted jewelry.

On their way out, one of them shot Pascua and lobbed a fragmentation grenade. The hammer they used was left behind.

The explosion shattered glass panels in nearby stalls and injured shoppers who scampered in different directions, leaving trails of blood.

Tor said the robbers belonged to the "Martilyo Gang" which was believed responsible for a similar robbery at the Ever-Gotesco Mall in Caloocan City on April 28.

One person was killed and at least 38 others, mostly children, were wounded in that robbery.

Yesterday's heist came on the eve of the lifting of the state of rebellion in Metro Manila and just as

MARTILYO/ A20

Gringo offer on sharing of power denounced

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM, DAVE VERIDIANO AND CATHY YAMSUAN

AT THE height of the so-called Edsa III, reelectionist Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan allegedly proposed a power-sharing arrangement with the Macapagal administration that left jailed former President Joseph Estrada out of the picture, according to two Cabinet officials.

The disclosure came a day after the Supreme Court allowed Juan Ponce Enrile, another reelectionist opposition senator, to post bail.

Enrile is charged with rebellion for allegedly plotting a coup against the administration.

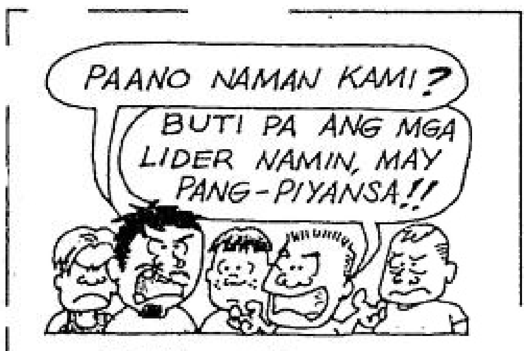
Honasan, who is also accused of plotting to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo, has been tagged a "fugitive from justice" for refusing to turn himself in despite an order for his arrest.

The Cabinet officials said the former Army colonel, who led several coup attempts against the Aquino administration, came up with the proposal on April 29, on the day supporters of Estrada gathered at the Edsa Shrine swelled to its biggest number.

At the time, the administration was bracing itself for a coup.

"On April 29, a sub-Cabinet official reported that Gringo called him up, telling him that they were not planning to install Erap back in office," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez told the INQUIRER.

GRINGO/ A20


PAANO NAMAN KAMI?
BUTI PA ANG MGA LIDER NAMIN, MAY PANG-PIYANSA!!

Who'll post bail for poor rioters?

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THERE'S something wrong with the price list for freedom: P80,000 if you are ex-Ambassador Ernesto Maceda; P100,000 if you are Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile; and P200,000 if you are a poor person who followed politicians' instructions to attack Malacañang.

Relatives of arrested rioters who

WHO'LL/ A7

Attack on Palace a new kind of coup d'etat

BY AMANDO DORONILA

WE survived by the skin of our teeth the first revolution of the poorest of the poor in the modern history of this country when the state crushed on May 1 the assault on Malacañang by an inflamed rabble gone berserk.

ANALYSIS

The attack on the heart of state power departed from the known methods of seizing power.

The conventional coup d'etat involves a swift military takeover of communications centers, the presidential palace, the legislature and strategic military centers. It is a battle between soldiers. If the coup is successful, a junta appears within 24 to 48 hours to announce a new government.

None of the above took place on May 1. A new monster emerged from the womb of a grossly unequal society, a mob mobilized from

ATTACK/ A21

Erap dreams of acquittal, comeback, Cha-cha

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

JOSEPH Estrada hopes to regain the presidency, amend the Constitution to prevent the military from withdrawing its support for elected leaders, call for an election in which he will not run, and then step down with his name restored.

The jailed ex-President divulged his plans yesterday in an exclusive interview with the INQUIRER at his maximum-security detention center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. *(See related story at right.)*

"They must reinstall me (*Kailangang ibalik nila ako*)," Estrada said, when asked what his next move would be if he were to be cleared of economic plunder charges.

It did not appear to matter to him that the Supreme Court had upheld the legitimacy of the

ERAP/ A6

HOMESICK? These Filipinas joined hundreds of domestic helpers and other OFWs at a rally in Hong Kong to support President Macapagal's crackdown on Edsa III participants. *(See story on Page A3.)* REUTERS

Ousted leader finds time for 'Art of War'

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

"CHICKEN Soup for the Soul" or Sun Tzu's "Art of War": Which book best suits Joseph Estrada's state of mind these days?

The ousted leader has found life in jail conducive to reading, "reminiscing" with friends and taking down notes—a departure from his reputed habit, when he was president, of avoiding reading Cabinet briefs and newspapers as much as possible.

"At least here I can finish what I've started reading," Estrada, unshaven for days and smoking a Lucky Strike, told

OUSTED/ A6

ANG GULO NAMAN! ANO BANG DRAMA 'YAN?!

Nur meets Gloria emissary

**BY NICO ALCONABA
AND FROILAN GALLARDO**
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY--Just what does Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao governor and erstwhile Moro National Liberation Front chairman Nur Misuari want?

Yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo's representative met with Misuari in Zamboanga City, but details of the meeting were kept secret.

Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for regional concerns--Southern Mindanao, would say only that he was taking up directly with President Macapagal what he and Misuari discussed in the meeting that was held at 6 p.m. at Zamboanga's Garden Orchid Hotel.

Last week, the 4th Bangsamoro People's National Congress which convened in Zamboanga City April 29-30 declared a Bangsamoro Republic with Misuari as president.

The congress was attended by some 2,000 Muslim, Christian and highlander delegates from all over Mindanao. It declared the 10 cities and 14 provinces in Mindanao that were covered by the 1976 Tripoli Agreement as the new Bangsamoro Republic.

Misuari is currently ARMM governor, administering the four provinces that make up the autonomous region. In 1996, his MNLF had signed a peace agreement with the government, after years of bitter conflict.

The declaration of the Bangsamoro Republic has apparently caused a rift within the MNLF which created a 15-man executive council to take over Misuari's position and named him "chair emeritus," a non-existent post.

MNLF legal counsel Randolph Parcasio, however, insisted yesterday the MNLF would continue to abide by the peace agreement it signed with the government and Misuari or the organization had nothing to do with the declaration of the Bangsamoro Republic.

Parcasio said Misuari also did not accept the resolutions passed during the Bangsamoro Congress.

Parcasio said, however, the MNLF would continue to demand that government fully implement the provisions of the 1996 peace accord.

He said the Bangsamoro Republic was apparently declared by the congress in reaction to "double dealings" and efforts by a presidential adviser in the present administration to undermine the 1996 accord.

Parcasio declined to name the adviser except to say he was not from Mindanao.

"Because of the maneuverings of the presidential adviser, the peace agreement between the government and the MNLF was almost damaged," he said.

In Cotabato City, Mayor Muslimin Sema said "there is nothing to worry about" with the creation of the 15-member MNLF executive council which replaced Misuari.

He said the council was a "collective leadership which aims to strengthen the MNLF and further strengthen the implementation of the peace agreement" it signed with the government in September 1996.

But Sema said that with the declaration of a Bangsamoro Republic, it seems Misuari has abandoned the peace agreement he signed with the government.

"We were surprised (by the declaration) because we have an existing agreement with government," he said.

MNLF sources said the intramurals going on in its hierarchy was due to the "reorganization" in some sensitive positions.

In Cagayan de Oro City, lawyer Macapanton Abbas Jr., chair of the Bangsa Moro Multisectoral Congress, said Misuari should resign as ARMM governor if he did indeed set up a Bangsamoro Republic.

"Misuari would be disloyal to the government and (could be) charged with rebellion. He should resign if he wants to declare independence," Abbas said.

Administration senatorial candidate Franklin Drilon said Saturday Misuari should be investigated for his declaration of a Bangsamoro Republic.

"He could be committing sedition, or even rebellion, for advocating the removal of a portion of Philippine territory," Drilon said. *With a report from Charlie Señase and Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Christine Avendaño*

May polls to proceed amid tension

CONGRESSIONAL and local elections will go ahead next week despite the tense political climate, Commission on Elections (Comelec) chairman Alfredo Benipayo said yesterday.

"We are ready," Benipayo said. "As far as the preparation of the central office is concerned, everything has been done."

Concerns had been raised that the May 14 elections could be postponed after President Macapagal's declaration of a state of rebellion to quell what she called a plot by supporters of her jailed predecessor Joseph Estrada to seize power.

Benipayo said election returns and ballot boxes would be collected by provincial poll supervisors escorted by Marines to thwart attempts at cheating.

Poll officials have also been briefed by the Armed Forces and the police on the aftermath of last week's rioting that left four people dead and more than a 100 injured.

"They assured us that everything will be in place on election day, everything will be secured," Benipayo stressed.

"All these have been taken care of, the elections will go through," he said. *AFP*

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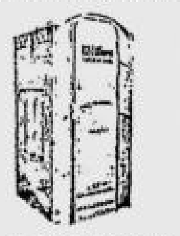

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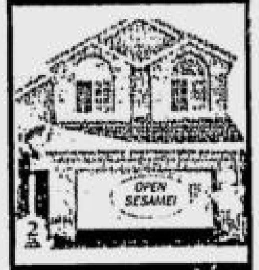
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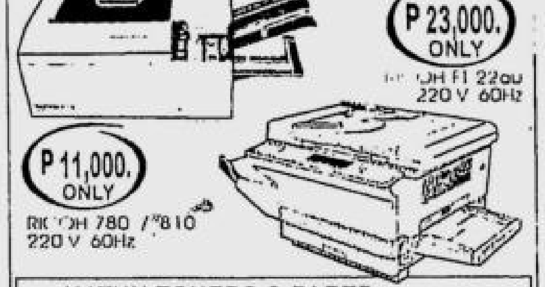

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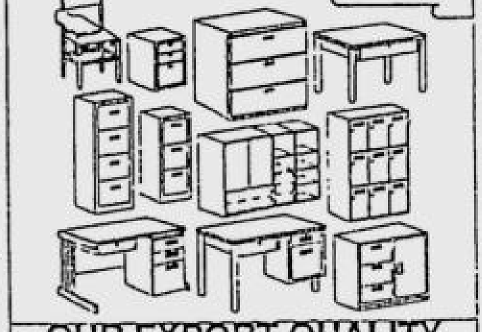

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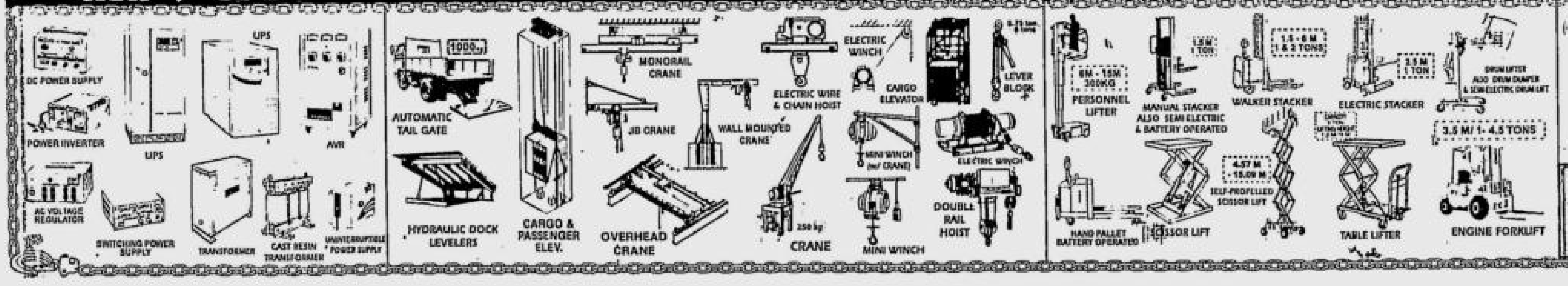

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HK Pinoys slam Erap in rally

HONG KONG—Several Filipino migrant organizations held a rally Sunday in downtown Hong Kong to denounce their disgraced former leader Joseph Estrada and call for the arrests of his political allies.

Hundreds of Filipinos who work as live-in maids watched a play and listened to speeches accusing Estrada and his cronies of manipulating the poor in their failed attempt last week to overthrow the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Eman Villanueva, secretary-general of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong, said Estrada's allies used poor people as "pawns and front liners for their own vested interests."

"The known leaders were nowhere to be found during the height of the rebellion and washed their hands off their crime after the riots," Villanueva said. "Only the poor were hurt and victimized."

He said all Estrada's associates must be "arrested, stand trial, convicted and incarcerated."

Villanueva called on the 160,000 Filipino workers here to urge their family members back home to prevent Estrada's allies from gaining seats in elections on May 14. *AP*

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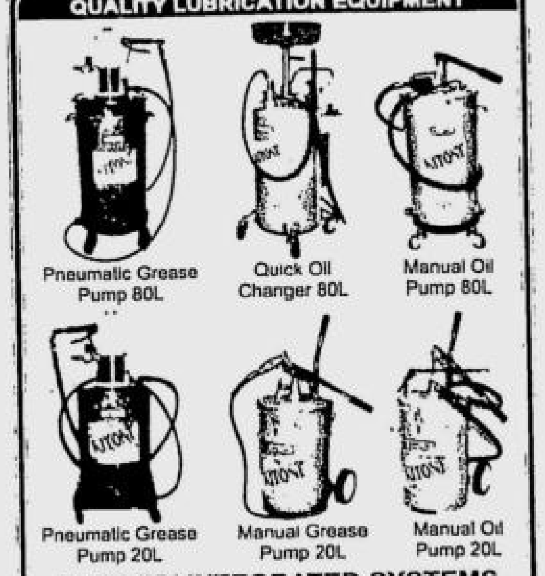

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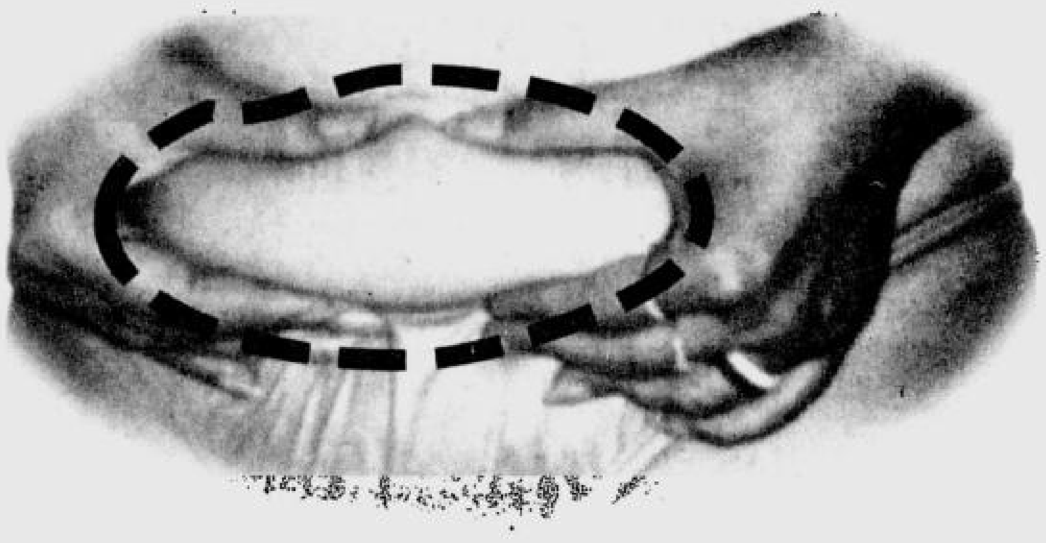

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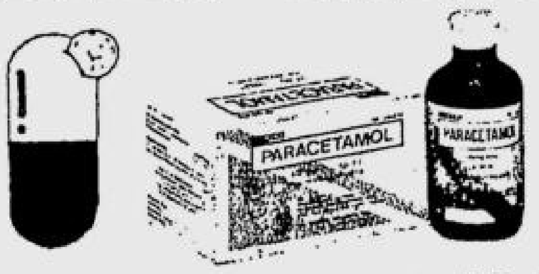

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Palace fears violence

MALACAÑANG is bracing for possible violence in the run-up to the May 14 polls as allies of imprisoned former President Joseph Estrada will try to stop the elections, Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Tiglao said authorities are checking reports that the opposition, especially the senatorial candidates close to Estrada, are bent on stopping the elections because "they know they will not win."

Tiglao said Estrada allies are still engaged in efforts to "agitate the urban poor" against the government.

There was no truth to reports that the military and police have been rounding up male residents in depressed areas, he said.

They merely put up checkpoints to monitor the movement of "suspicious-looking persons," Tiglao said.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes "does not have the military mindset to use force," he said.

Armand Nocum

Cops seize $1trillion-in fake US bonds

By Froilan Gallardo
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Police seized fake US Federal Reserve notes with a total face value of more than one trillion dollars in a raid on a house in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental Saturday.

Supt. Henry Foster Tomas, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) chief in Northern Mindanao, said 120 fake P1,000 bills were also seized in the raid which was prompted by the proliferation of such bills in Misamis Oriental.

House owner Rustico Cabillar was not at home when police accompanied by US federal agents and Bangko Sentral personnel arrived Saturday afternoon. He is now the object of a manhunt.

Tomas said Cabillar was out on bail for a similar offense last year when millions in fake US dollar bills were found in a house he was renting in Barangay Bonbon here.

In last Saturday's raid, police seized 2,650 pieces of $500-million US federal bonds; 1,250 pieces of $100-million US federal bonds, and 135 pieces of $100 bills, all of them counterfeit.

Police also seized negatives for $500 and $100-million Federal Reserve bonds, a computer and printing paraphernalia.

Tomas said they believe Cabillar was selling the fake Philippine currency to unscrupulous politicians who would use them to buy votes in the coming elections.

"The money really looks real and could fool anyone," said Tomas, as he showed the INQUIRER a wad of the P1,000 bills.

Tomas said Cabillar sold the fake US federal notes to foreigners. He said the going rate for the counterfeit bonds was $50,000 each, depending on the quality of the printing.

Tomas said charges of counterfeiting will be filed against Cabillar, similar to the ones he is facing in this city.

Comelec exec warns against 'dagdag-singit'

By G. Lacuarta

THE COMMISSION on Elections has uncovered a new form of cheating that takes place even before the voting.

"Dagdag-singit," Comelec commissioner Rex Borra said yesterday, may yet allow thousands of unregistered voters to be included in voters' lists on orders of local courts acting on petitions for inclusion by those who failed to register.

Borra said a regional trial court in Parang, Maguindanao recently ordered the inclusion of 4,968 voters in the rolls, while another court in Lanao del Sur approved petitions for inclusion of 5,000 voters in several precincts there.

"This is something new," Borra said.

Borra said the Comelec was checking reports politicians had filed the petitions in behalf of the voters, apparently to increase their votes.

Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo said the poll body will instruct its field officers not to comply with the court orders without prior notice from the commission en banc.

"We cannot just add thousands of voters to the list just because the courts say so," Benipayo said.

On the other hand, Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco said "dagdag-singit" (add-sneak) was not actually new as it had been done before but nobody noticed.

"It was being done a long time ago, but we can't determine its effect on the credibility of elections," she said.

Tancangco said the 1998 computerized voters list (CVL) itself was "dirty" and had to be purged of multiple and fictitious registrants.

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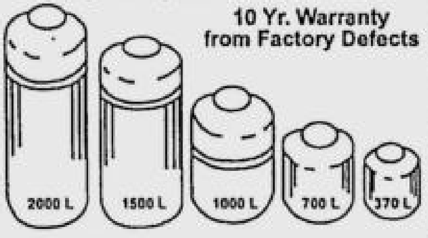

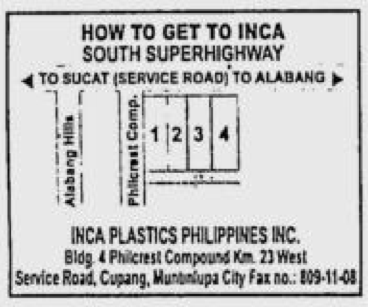

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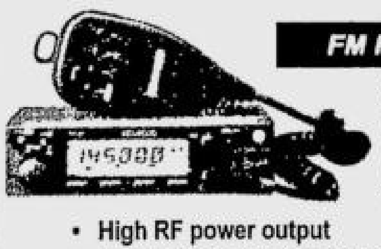

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NBI clears Quezon solon of drug raps

(From page A1)

drug trafficking in the province.

"No evidence would show that" the three officials "are involved in illegal drug trade," the NBI said in a report dated May 3.

The NBI conducted an investigation of the alleged links of Punzalan, Talaga and Alejandrino to drug trafficking after Jonathan Perpiñan claimed that the three had worked with alleged drug lord Cerilo "Athel" Alcala to make the trade of *shabu* in the province more profitable.

In an affidavit he submitted to the Department of Justice on April 2, Perpiñan identified Punzalan, Alejandrino and Talaga as the alleged protectors of a drug syndicate supposedly led by Alcala, whom he claimed he had worked with for two years.

In separate counter-affidavits, the three dismissed the accusations of Perpiñan as "pure lies."

Alejandrino alleged "that his meetings with Alcala, Punzalan and Talaga in the presence of Perpiñan (in) mid-1999 or earlier, to discuss matters related to drug trade, could not have happened" because he had no command to speak of in Quezon at that time.

The police officer said he was reassigned to the Philippine National Police (PNP)-Region IV until he was named provincial director on Nov. 26, 1999.

Alejandrino also claimed that the alleged meeting in July and August 2000 between him, Alcala and Perpiñan never took place.

"Because during that period, Perpiñan was confined at the Drug Rehabilitation Center at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig, Metro Manila," the police officer said.

The NBI confirmed that Perpiñan was indeed a former patient of the Drug Rehabilitation Center. He was admitted on July 11, 2000 and was discharged on Jan. 14, 2001.

The NBI said its findings created "serious doubts" about Perpiñan's allegations that he was with Alcala when the latter met Alejandrino twice in August.

In the NBI report, Talaga was quoted as saying that when he allegedly met in 1999 with Punzalan, Alejandrino and Alcala in the presence of Perpiñan "he was not yet the city's chief executive officer and was not in a position to wield power or influence over drug operations in the area."

In an earlier interview, Talaga had said that the mayor then was Bernard Tagarao.

"I assumed office only in June 2000 after I won in the recall election," Talaga said.

The NBI noted that the day after Perpiñan's exposé, the whistle-blower talked with the media "and this time he referred to Mayor Bernard Tagarao, not Mayor Talaga, as part of the alleged meetings where drug-related matters were discussed."

To support his claim that he was not involved in illegal drug trade, Punzalan submitted a photocopy of House Resolution No. 1765, which he introduced before the 11th Congress.

The resolution calls for a probe of the seizure of 365 kilograms of *shabu* on the coast of Sariaya, a part of his district, in August 1999.

After interviews with residents of Lucena City, the NBI said it was able to confirm that Punzalan and Talaga parted ways when the latter lost his reelection bid in 1998, a loss that Talaga blamed on Punzalan.

For his part, suspected drug lord Alcala said in an affidavit he submitted to the NBI that Punzalan, Talaga and Alejandrino were not his cohorts in the drug trade.

Alcala also dismissed Perpiñan's allegation that several policemen in Lucena City were on his payroll.

He said that the PNP personnel named by the whistle-blower were his arresting officers and complainants in two separate criminal cases filed against him.

Based on the NBI report, the allegations of Perpiñan were principally based on three points—the alleged involvement of Punzalan, Alejandrino and Talaga in the illegal drug trade, the drug-related death of Marlon Ruedas and the alleged abduction of Victorina Perpiñan.

Perpiñan had claimed that the abduction on March 26 of his sister, Victorina, whom he said he personally witnessed, prompted him to expose the activities of the syndicate.

He then sought the assistance of Fr. Raul Enriquez, director of the Social Concern of the Diocese of Lucena, in bringing his story to the media's attention.

However, the NBI reported that Victorina was not kidnapped.

"On the alleged kidnapping of Victorina, the latter was interviewed at her residence in Silay City, Bacolod, by ABS-CBN TV Bacolod on April 10, 2001 where she denied that she was kidnapped in Lucena City on March 26, 2001," the NBI report said.

Perpiñan also alleged that he served as a lookout when Lucena City policemen, allegedly on the payroll of the syndicate, killed Ruedas on Alcala's orders.

The NBI said it was still investigating the killing of Ruedas.

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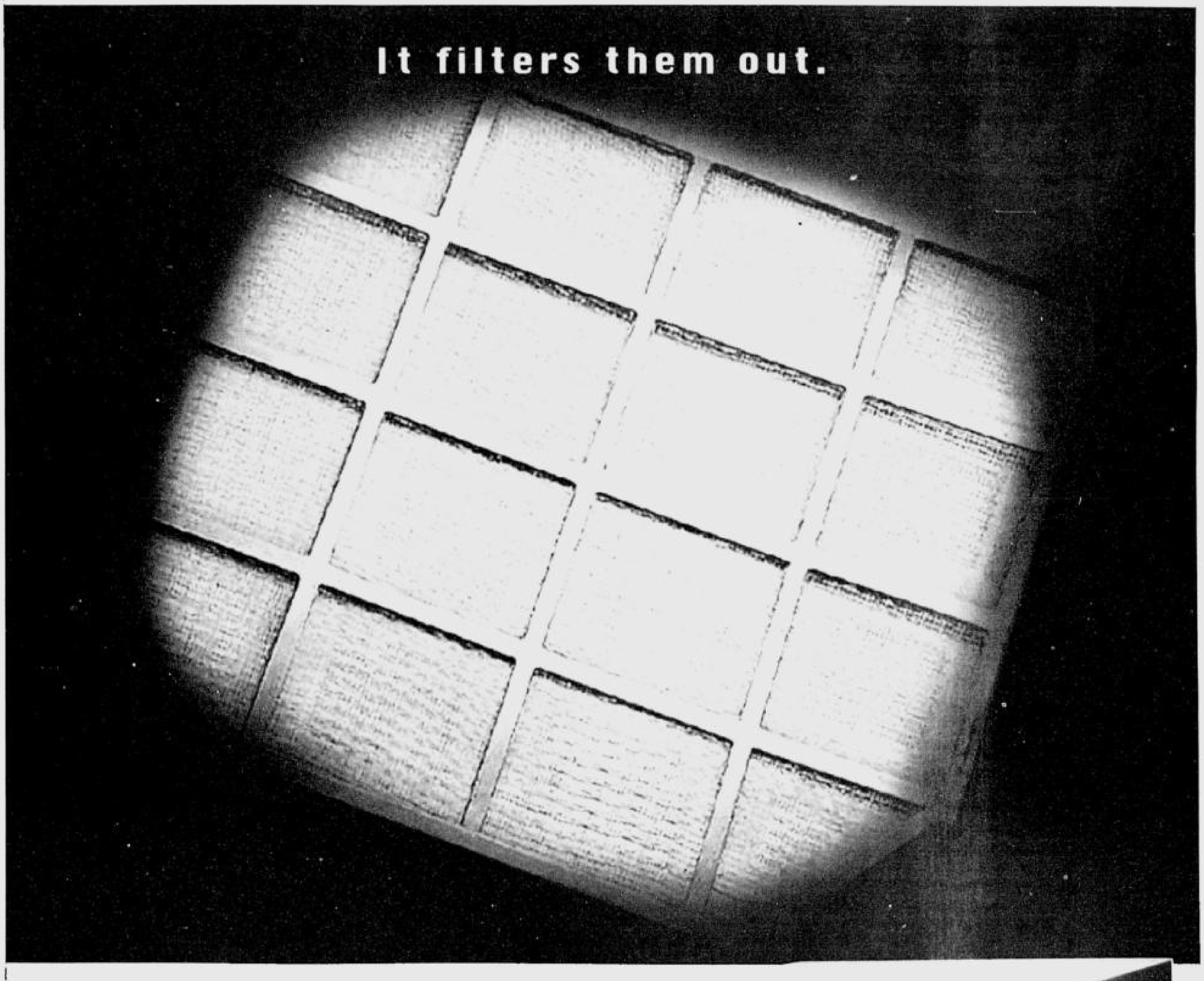

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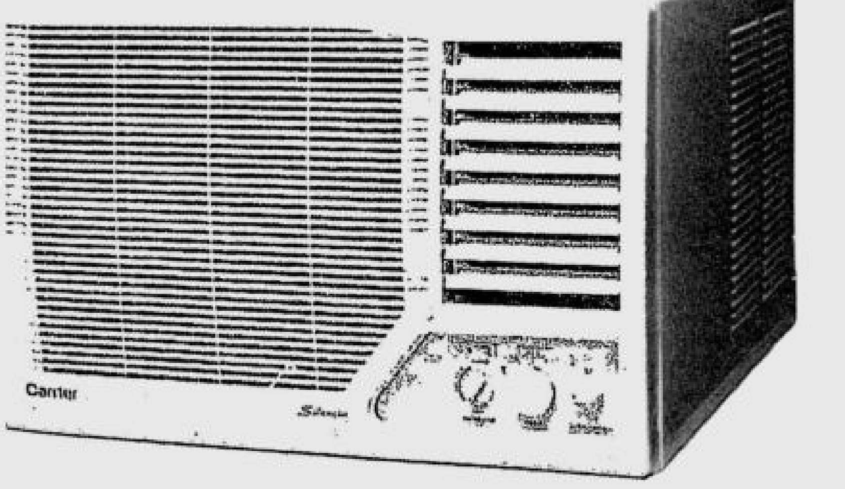

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Ousted leader finds time for 'Art of War'

(From page A1)

the INQUIRER yesterday in an exclusive interview at his detention house in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

In his first face-to-face interview with a journalist since he was arrested on a charge of economic plunder on April 25, Estrada said he has been trying to endure the "mental torture" of imprisonment by reading and entertaining a strictly regulated flow of visitors.

With his arraignment scheduled for June, the country's most well known and heavily guarded detainee is also apparently trying to brush up on his legal defense options.

He said he has also been reading—and even "memorizing"—the 1987 Constitution and the Revised Penal Code.

He gamely showed the INQUIRER the titles he had on hand: "Chicken Soup," a gift from his visit to Japan in December 1998; "Art of War," a Chinese classic on military strategy; and "Along Came a Spider," a crime thriller by James Patterson.

Sense of humor intact

But despite the supposed "mental torture" it inflicts, detention has hurt neither Estrada's health nor his sense of humor.

In the middle of the interview, a woman doctor in fatigues arrived to take his blood pressure reading, which was better than usual at 130/80.

"Can you make it higher so they (government officials) can finally be convinced to just place me under house arrest?" Estrada kidded the doctor, who later saluted him before leaving.

Turning back to this reporter, the ex-president said: "Sometimes you really have to lighten up here by telling jokes, otherwise . . ."

And since he's been into books lately, has he also begun writing down his thoughts and memoirs?

"For now I'm just engaging in some reminiscing (with visiting friends) and taking down short notes. Why are you asking? Do you want me to stay here that long?" he asked the INQUIRER, smiling.

Complaints

Asked how he was coping with detention, Estrada complained about the sticky summer heat inside the bungalow built especially for him and his co-accused son Jinggoy, as two stand fans in the living and dining area stirred the humid air. (Only the two bedrooms are air-conditioned.)

He also worried that he and Jinggoy could be trapped "in case there is a fire" because the front steel door "is locked by guards from outside" when visiting hours end at 11 p.m.

When the INQUIRER arrived in the morning, Estrada was with former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, legal counsel Cleofe Versola and two other lawyers, and his personal secretary.

Later, Jinggoy emerged with wife Precy from their bedroom. The San Juan mayor was restless and obviously very bored.

Lunch from home

Interviewed around 9 a.m., the former president was wearing his wristband with the presidential seal, a checkered maroon polo shirt, black slacks and black leather slippers.

Issuing orders to his personal secretary from the plastic chair where he sat for the interview, Estrada offered his guests a plate of peanuts, oranges and "Supermelt" *ensaymada*, which he noted came from the bakery of former child star Niño Muhlach.

A few minutes later, a servant, one of four helpers working in the cluttered kitchen at the time, gave him his day's dose of two Centrum multivitamin capsules.

When lunch was served, the dishes, which came all the way from the Estrada's North Greenhills residence, included chicken *adobo*, *kare-kare*, grilled *gindara* and asparagus soup.

The meal was served on expensive plates and silverware that had also been brought from No. 1 Polk Street.

Sleep problem

Estrada—whose lifestyle in Malacañang reportedly included all-night drinking sessions with his so-called midnight Cabinet—said he was having trouble falling asleep in his new quarters, and usually stayed up until around 2 a.m.

For entertainment, he has only a TV set and a radio in his bedroom.

He pointed to a stereo speaker fixed on the wall near the main door, which he and his friends claim contains "hidden microphones and cameras." He had it covered with manila paper.

The windows still had no curtains, although President Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday granted Estrada's request for curtains.

Through the windows, the view consisted of three layers of wire fencing, and beyond, a vista of trees and electric posts. Armed sentries in fatigues occasionally passed by. Their two tents were pitched just along the outermost fence.

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Erap . . .

(From page A1)

Macapagal presidency.

"What I'm thinking, assuming I get an acquittal and return to power, is calling for a constitutional convention," Estrada said.

He told the INQUIRER that he would have the 1987 Charter amended in such a way that the military "would no longer have the power" under the law to cut its allegiance to the duly elected president due to political instability.

During People Power II in January, it was the military's withdrawal of support for his much-assailed leadership that spelled doom for his two-year old administration.

Estrada said he would also call for a shift in the form of government from presidential to parliamentary.

"Then afterward I will call for presidential elections in which I will not participate. I just want to step down (from politics) with my reputation restored *(may malinis na pangalan)*," he added.

Good point

He summed up his thoughts on the failure of Edsa III by wondering aloud in Filipino:

"How come if it's the rich and the 'texters' who gather at Edsa Shrine, it's called democracy? But if it's the poor who go there, it's rebellion?"

The 64-year-old former movie actor continued to express bitterness over his ouster, which he again blamed on "conspirators" that include the Makati business elite and Catholic Church leaders.

"The truth will come out in the end. I was ordered arrested by this government because, on record, I have been an effective campaigner for the Puwersa ng Masa (opposition coalition). (The Macapagal administration) is so determined to get a 13-0 victory (in the Senate race).

"The masses knew this scheme all along, but what triggered (the May 1 violence) was when they saw me arrested, fingerprinted and posing for mug shots," he said.

He laughed off officials' statements linking his closest allies to alleged power-grab conspiracies, particularly an alleged opposition plot to kill both him and the President and to install Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile at the head of a junta.

Estrada said the charges were part of an "old script."

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Who'll post bail for poor rioters?

(From page A1)

joined the May 1 assault on Malacañang said they were told to raise bail of P200,000 for the temporary release of each detainee.

"*Karamihan sa mga naaresto ay hindi pa nakakahawak ng P10,000. Saan naman kami kukuha ng P200,000* (Most of the rioters have never even held P10,000 in their hands. Where will we get P200,000)?" lamented Aling Miling, whose husband is among at least 58 alleged rioters detained at the Western Police District Headquarters.

Policemen at the headquarters also said they were told that bail had been set at P200,000, but neither they nor the relatives could say where the order came from.

The INQUIRER was unable to call any court authorities who could confirm the claim.

The suspects yesterday asked opposition leaders to get them out of jail.

The loyalists called on Enrile, Maceda, reelectionist Senators Gringo Honasan and Miriam Defensor-Santiago and other close Estrada allies to come to their aid.

"Our relatives have no chance of being freed without their help," Aling Miling said in Filipino.

She said senatorial candidates of the Puwersa ng Masa coalition could easily raise a significant amount to help the arrested demonstrators.

"There are a lot of wealthy candidates like Jamby Madrigal. Perhaps they could help," she suggested. Madrigal is a prominent scion of an "old-rich" banking and shipping clan.

So far, only senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara has visited the detained rioters and offered his help, Aling Miling said.

While the poor demonstrators languish in jail, the rich politicians who allegedly incited them to storm the Palace are free.

The Supreme Court on Saturday granted Enrile's petition to post interim bail after ruling that the evidence so far presented against him in his rebellion case amounted to hearsay.

Well-fed

The arrested rioters, mostly men, have been detained in a gym at the headquarters since their arrest. Six minors have been transferred to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The atmosphere was festive as the detainees entertained their relatives.

Except for the alleged "clubbing" of rioters by furious policemen during the Tuesday attack, the Estrada loyalists have been treated well so far, Aling Miling said.

Protesters said they were regularly served packed meals from Texas Chicken, Hen Lin and other fast-food restaurants.

Visitors are allowed all day long.

Boat fares to Mindanao

And what of those demonstrators who were brought in from the provinces to swell the pro-Estrada crowds at the Edsa Shrine?

Malacañang has set up an operations center to help hundreds of Mindanaoans who were ferried by politicians to Manila to participate in the rallies.

Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for regional concerns in Southern Mindanao, said the Palace, through his office, organized the center after several families of those recruited asked the government for help in bringing their relatives home.

He said within an hour after the center in Malacañang was declared open, 20 people called up and met with its staff.

The recruits claimed they did not have any idea that they would also be used to assault Malacañang, according to Dureza.

Promised money

He said the recruits also claimed that they were paid P1,000 or were promised money and livelihood assistance by pro-Estrada executives in Mindanao.

He added that the recruits were reportedly abandoned by their leaders and by those who recruited them from their respective provinces.

Before giving them financial aid and free boat tickets to Mindanao, his staff first verifies that applicants were indeed recruited for the Manila rallies, he said.

Staff members are still verifying how many Mindanao residents were brought to Manila, but recruits who boarded a ship from Butuan City alone already number about 500 people.

Dureza declined to name the political leaders involved in the recruitment as the police are already investigating the matter.

He said those recruited were from the cities of Davao, Marawi, Cotabato, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga and the provinces of Davao del Sur, Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Norte, among others.

The center can be reached through telephone number 735-6090 or any RMN radio station in Mindanao, he said. *With a report from Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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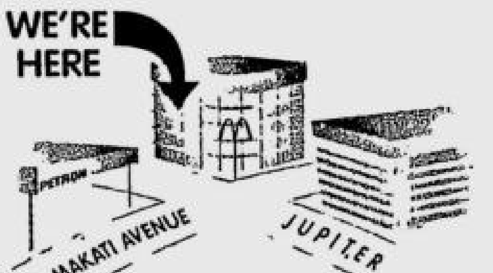

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Neglect of SME workers

EDITORIAL

DURING a reflection session held by a group of Catholic and Protestant church workers following the tumult on Mendiola, a nun noted that on Labor Day, May 1, when government forces had triumphed at Mendiola with the Edsa Shrine reclaimed and the site of thanksgiving rites, everyone got a lot of thanks except "the poor workers whose day it was and who were there. My heart broke."

Mendiola was an assembly of the rubber-slipper mass. It was a critical mass that raged against the injustice they believed was done to their champion, Joseph Estrada. Who was going to take up the cudgels for them now that their savior was behind bars?

From their experience of unrelieved oppression and misery, no one. Only their Erap. Estrada's image as the defender of the poor looming larger than life on the silver screen dies hard in the consciousness of a long-suffering, poverty-stricken public whose only escape is the movies. Estrada was their dream of deliverance. This is why Mendiola is a clarion call for the nation to make haste and make straight the distortions in the thinking of a movie-obsessed mass who cannot tell fact from fantasy. Or, refuse to because to do so would mean letting go of the dream. They had hitched their dream to a movie star.

Something is very wrong here. No one in this country is systematically, consistently, seriously hands-on and on the ground to do something—anything—to protect the basic rights of the working poor. This is the premise of the two-part series written by a retired labor lawyer, Ramon T. Jimenez, published by the INQUIRER on Labor Day. The timing was propitious. After Mendiola, we have agonized about why the slipper-shod masses attacked the so-called educated, cultured, enlightened, God-fearing, Edsa Shrine-enshrined ruling class.

The answer is simply that no one has been looking after them, particularly the employees of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), who comprise the majority of the labor force, as Jimenez's research showed.

Jimenez has set up a foundation devoted to research the conditions of SME employees as they comprise 90 percent of the country's business companies. SMEs are retail, service, commercial and industrial establishments employing at least 10 but not more than 90 workers. According to the National Statistics Office, as of October 1999, there were 3.72 million workers employed in Metro Manila alone. About 3.3 million (91 percent) were employed in SMEs.

Jimenez's foundation, Leviticus, found that almost half of the SMEs pay their workers below the legislated minimum wage. They also routinely violate labor and welfare laws such as employment status, working hours, leave benefits, security of tenure. Who's looking after the welfare of the Filipino wage-earner? Not the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) with its fear of losing control should it include the overwhelming SMEs. Not big labor, which has a highly visible and saber-rattling presence at protest rallies but finds SMEs with few workers unworthy of its time and resources to organize. "The mind-set being maintained by the employers toward their workers, tacitly supported by big labor, is that a low wage is better than nothing," Jimenez reports.

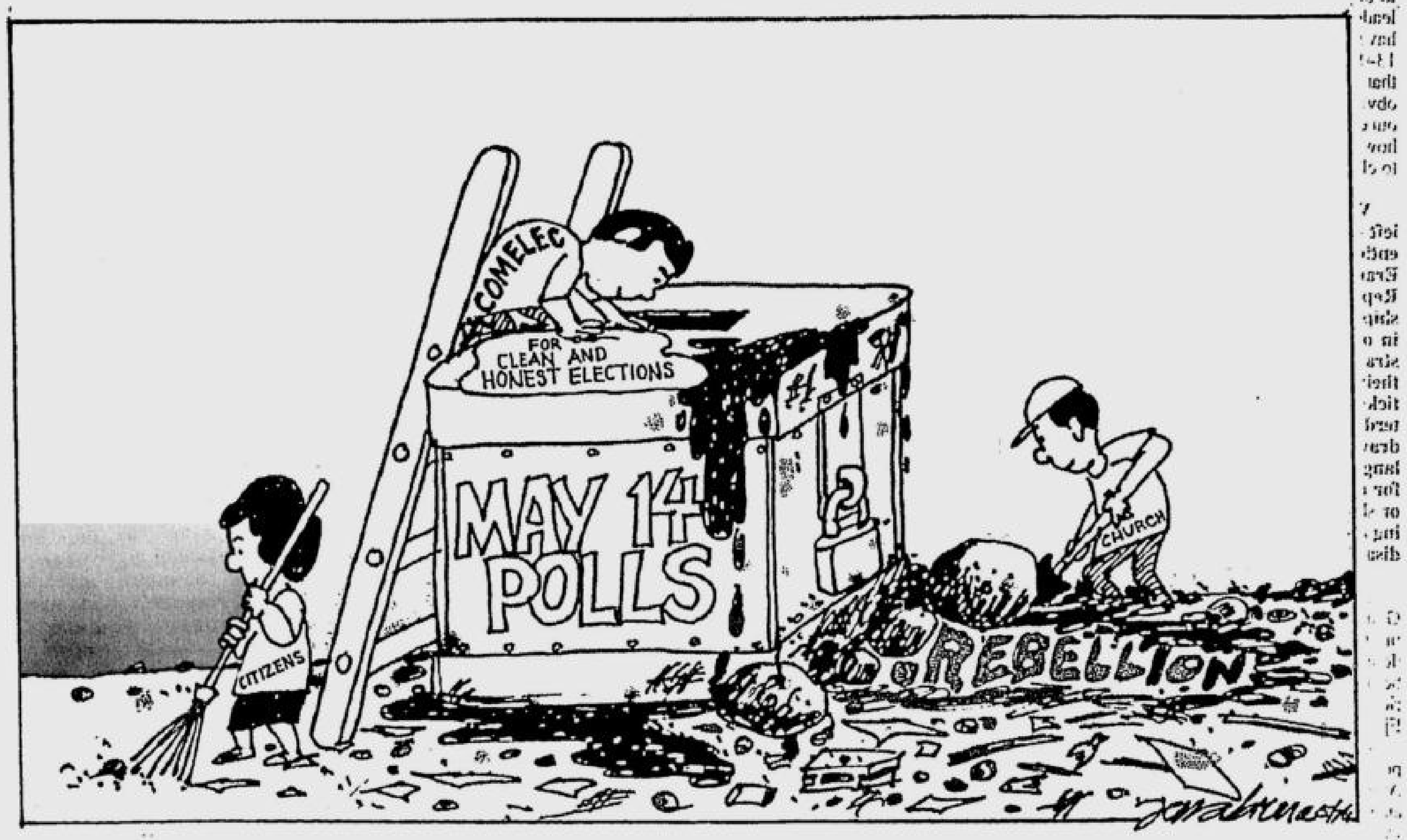
Not the department of labor with only 250 inspectors for the entire country to monitor and enforce compliance with minimum wage and benefit laws. "We have yet to hear a labor secretary vehemently demanding a higher budget allocation for the DOLE's inspectorate function," says Jimenez.

As for the Department of Trade and Industry, it is "remotely detached" as "keeping investors satisfied has consistently been and will ever remain its mandate." So, what's the use of DTI's Bureau of Small Business if it is not helping the SMEs operate viably and legally?

Neither has Congress helped. The last time it came up with significant labor legislation was 12 years ago on the rationalization of wages by region. Urgent concerns that need to be addressed today include contractualization, casualization and worsening exploitation.

Not even the Catholic Church has helped. This is the Church "which has long been making pro-labor pronouncements." Jimenez says that it's been a year (Jubilee Year) since the politically influential Jaime Cardinal Sin called to promote every worker's basic right to job security and to a decent family living wage. It is time, Jimenez says, for the Church "to persuade Catholic employers to keep in mind—between Sundays—the Gospel mandate about the least of our brethren."

A question that haunted the participants in that reflection session was: "Where have we failed the poor?" Right there at the Edsa Shrine on the day of victory, the poor workers were forgotten, of course. It's the same old story until the fire next time.



Did gov't pressure TV not to cover People Power III?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT WAS in Los Angeles when former President Joseph Estrada was arrested and his supporters started massing at Edsa for what was to become People Power III. And I was in San Francisco when they attacked Malacañang and, like any journalist who wants to be in the midst of breaking news, I regretted missing all the fun and tried to get an early plane booking for the flight home. But it is the peak of the travel season and it was impossible to get early seats in the jetliners flying to Manila, so we kept on top of the news by watching TV, reading the newspapers and logging on to the websites of the INQUIRER, the New York Times and other US newspapers. But it turned out later that although we were thousands of miles away, we were getting more up-to-the-minute reports of what was happening here than most Filipinos. The reason is that while domestic newspaper reporters and correspondents and cameramen of foreign newspapers and international wire services like the Associated Press and Reuters were covering and reporting the violence, local television networks were not covering the events as well as they should in spite of the fact that the action was best for TV reportage.

As a result, Filipinos right in the middle of the action were not getting the latest reports as did people in foreign countries. My daughter in Quezon City was reporting to me by phone what was happening but as she was getting her information from TV, they were often late. The major networks gave reports only intermittently and signed off early, so that the height of the action which took place between midnight and dawn of May 1 went largely unreported. While the pro-Erap mob marched from Edsa to Mendiola and then attacked the gates of Malacañang, most of Metro Manilans were unaware of it. It was only Channel 25 of cable TV that continued to broadcast what was happening but then it, too, went off the air. To their credit, radio stations continued broadcasting but then listening to the excited reports of the radio correspondents without seeing what was actually happening gave listeners a wrong impression of the actual events, usually worse than they really were.

In contrast, the INQUIRER website had minute-by-minute updates of what was happening.

What happened? Why did Philippine television, which reported in minute detail the impeachment trial and People Power II, fall down on the job in this more important—and more cinematic—event? I posed these questions to people who should know upon my arrival here and what came out is not flattering to the beleaguered Macapagal administration.

It seems that the government pressured the networks, including Channel 25, not to broadcast People Power III. At that time, the administration, which was fighting for its life, cannot be blamed for the suppression of information as it was afraid the publicity would draw more people to Edsa and add to the pro-Erap protesters as they did to People Power I and II. But this suppression of information boomeranged on it. The people in Malacañang were surprised by the speed of the mob in marching from the Edsa Shrine to Mendiola. As a result, the police lines stationed in different places to block the marchers were not reinforced and were easily routed by the Erap mob. How can 50 policemen stop that mob bent on mayhem? One after the other, the police lines were overrun. This encouraged the mob, which rushed to the gates of Malacañang Palace itself where it was finally stopped.

It was a good thing that nobody tried to go over the Malacañang fences as the Presidential Security Unit inside the Palace ground, in spite of the policy of "maximum tolerance," had orders to shoot protesters who would try to scale the walls—in the arms and legs at first, but then "shoot to kill" once they succeeded in entering the grounds.

As in any violent confrontation, there are heroes and villains. The heroes are the policemen and soldiers who did not panic and stayed their trigger fingers even as the mob attacked them. Worthy of special mention is that cop who already had his gun out when the mob fell on him and almost killed him but nevertheless did not fire it. He could easily have killed several of the attackers ganging up on him. That would have been self-defense. But he mercifully stayed his trigger finger although he risked losing his life by doing so.

Also to be congratulated are the officials (perhaps President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo?) who laid down the policy of "maximum tolerance." A number of dead bodies—like the 14 farmers in the Mendiola massacre—would have inflamed passions and given the protesters more ammunition against the government. A good thing the officers in the frontline did not panic and give the orders to shoot.

The villains are the pro-Erap politicians who egged the mob to attack Malacañang. Their greatest sin is that after manipulating and exploiting the naïve urban poor, they deserted them to save their own skins. Such cowardice. Now, they are acting in all innocence denying any role in the attack.

"Who me? Don't look at me," they say in effect. "I had nothing to do with it. I asked them not to do it. All I did was tell them to kneel down in prayer."

And this is the more important result of the neglect of television to cover People Power III. The tapes could have caught the opportunistic politicians inciting the people to rebellion in their harangues, evidence that the Supreme Court cannot claim as "hearsay." Ironically, the Macapagal administration which suppressed TV coverage lost potential evidence against the principal plotters in the attempt to grab power.

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

What will you tell them?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FROM WHERE I stand, the elections have become immeasurably simplified. There is only one question to ask the candidates, which is: What do you have to say to the people who flocked to Edsa the other week?

During the 1992 elections, it was Mang Pandoy. He was the poor man who was turned into the symbolic Filipino Everyman and made to confront the presidential candidates during a debate. Mang Pandoy was made to tell his tale, which, truly, was typical of most Filipinos—he was a carpenter from the province come to the city in search of heaven, and found hell—to which the candidates were made to respond. Most gave pro-forma statements about how they meant to uplift his lot.

During the 1998 elections, it was a poor girl named Josephine that was made to confront the presidential candidates like a bad dream, or like the mountain of trash in Payatas, which every Metro Manila resident knows is there but whom few have seen—or smelled—or ever will. Which was in fact where Josephine came from. She and her family lived beside the mountain of trash, from which they eked out a living, scavenging. I do not now recall whether Josephine was the eldest. I recall that she had a brood of siblings younger than herself. She was resolved to pluck them out from that life one day, and trekked to an elementary school daily, in-between picking through the rot, for that purpose.

Most of the presidential candidates too gave pro-forma responses about how they meant to uplift her lot, and that of her family. I've written about that a couple of times, stunned by how the presidential candidates thought they could do something for a kid who had just shown them true heights of heroism. You are confronted by a wisp of a girl, born into the most abject circumstances, who is trying to claw out of her lot—tugging along her entire family—by dint of courage and hard work, you do not utter silly platitudes about what you can do for her. You stand in awe, gasping for breath, preferably with mouth agape. Only after that do you start stuttering something about how you mean to emulate that heroism, and give something back to the Josephines of this world, who truly deserve a break in life.

But that was then, this is now. Now, you do not have to invent a Filipino Everyman, or Everywoman, plucking out from the scraggly masses someone who will look good in the newspapers and TV after being scrubbed to stand for them. The Filipino Everyman, or Everywoman, was there at Edsa, toothless and tattooed, emaciated and inebriated, ancient and angry, in all their grimy, incandescent fury. That is the Filipino Everyman, or Everywoman, without makeup, in more ways than one. They are better than Mang Pandoy and Josephine in that they are more than the symbolic masses, they are the real masses. And they are better than Mang Pandoy and Josephine in that they were not brought to the studio to knock at the conscience of the king or queen, they went out to the streets on their own strength—as they say at hospitals about victims of accidents who are still able to walk—and rattled the very gates of Malacañang itself.

Of course they are not talking to presidential candidates, they are talking to senatorial ones. But I don't know that that makes much difference. I do know that today's elections are different from previous ones in that they are coming off from two earthshaking events. Some will say from two demonstrations of people power, one coming after the other in rapid succession. I myself would call it one dazzling display of people power and one fiery explosion of the social volcano. However you call them, they make next Monday's elections one of the most important in this country's history—possibly the most important one. They have just had the single most important question in this country rammed into its throat, namely: What's in it for the poor?

Of course you can always decide to dismiss "Edsa III" as nothing more than an aberrant display of collective ignorance and stupidity, the kind you may expect from "Erap loyalists." I am sure that's what is in the hearts of many of the candidates—that is what many veterans of People Power II have been saying and writing—though that is probably what they will not say in public for fear of losing two to three million votes. But as to the rest, what do you tell the crowd that massed at Edsa? If you had been one of the speakers there, what would you have shouted to them apart from "*Lusob! Lusob!*"?

We do have powerful proof of where blithe, pro-forma statements about uplifting the plight of the poor go. I saw a footage of Mang Pandoy last year in the ABS-CBN Christmas special, and he was pretty much back to where he started. The flow of largesse stopped as soon as the public lost sight of him, which was after the elections. He was dropped from the government rosters, and the shack of mud and hollow block he had started to build, courtesy of a grant of a small lot, was left unbuilt for lack of funds. He could not find work as a carpenter, and all his seven minutes of fame left him by way of wealth was their memory. He was richer only in experience. Which did not altogether make him magnanimous, it made him bitter.

I do not know what happened to Josephine. I leave it to the intrepid reporters of my newspaper and the TV stations to track her down and learn her story. Did she ever get to leave the mountain of trash that had come to symbolize her life? Or, heaven forbid, did she or her siblings fall prey to that same mountain of trash when it fell to earth in a fit of wrath, or in a sodden implosion from dead weight? Did she ever graduate from elementary school, meet a nice boy from another neighborhood and find true happiness? *Abangan ang susunod na kabanata.*

But her disappearing from sight does not augur well for the best. Which raises the most disturbing questions, foremost of them: If the Josephines and Mang Pandoys of this country, who have been thrust into public view, and who have consequently become objects of symbolic, token and preferential treatment, still cannot make it, through no lack of courage, determination, and hard work, who the hell can?

You are facing the horde that came to Edsa the other week, what do you tell them to make them not shout you off the stage? What do you tell them to make them disperse with the comforting thought they've gotten what they went there for? What do you tell them to not make them vow to come back again and again with fire in their eyes and mayhem in their hearts?

That is what today's elections have come down to. Or should.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@ vasia.com

High court does a balancing act

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

BACOLOD civic leader Nena de Leon called up this columnist the other day to sound the alarm over a possible reality in the coming elections, which ought to be taken seriously by the People Power Coalition leaders. De Leon said that many people in that city have told her they are all for the PPC campaign for a 13-0 vote in the senatorial elections. The trouble is that 13-0 is what they plan to write in their ballot. They obviously think that this is sufficient, instead of spelling out each name on the ballot. Ballots marked 13-0 will, however, be invalidated. The PPC candidates ought to clarify this in their sorties.

* * *

What is evident now is that the government is left to pick up the broken lives of those who were enticed by the fiery demagogues at the Edsa pro-Erap rallies to participate in the recent uprising. Reports indicate that many people who were shipped to Manila from Mindanao by the boatloads in order to augment the Edsa crowds are now stranded in Manila, with no means to go back to their provinces; the government has to buy them tickets for home. Columnist Art Borjal of Star yesterday touched on the pathetic plight of those people drawn from the poorest sectors of society, who now languish in various jails after they were arrested for rebellion. Where are the leaders who trucked or shipped them to Manila? They should be looking after these people, but these leaders have now disappeared.

* * *

Earlier this column featured reports that Guia Gomez and Laarni Enriquez were in charge of providing the food for the Edsa ralliers, while Loi Ejercito doled out the cash. For instance, Gomez asked a number of her women friends to each donate 25 sacks of rice for the Edsa rallies. Perhaps Gomez, Enriquez and Ejercito could now take care of those in the various jails. The loyalist mayors in Metro Manila who transported people by the truckloads to Edsa, such as Lito Atienza, Jejomar Binay and Mel Mathay, should also answer for their poor constituencies now in jail or who were hurt. The problem is that now, every leader of that rally-cum-uprising has washed his hands of responsibility while the poor people are left to languish in jail.

* * *

In this country the citizens are always asking which side of a given issue won or lost. This question is again being raised regarding the recent Supreme Court order to release Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who had earlier filed a petition to be released from detention. The opposition immediately stressed that the grant of temporary release to Enrile was a setback to the Macapagal administration, as its lawyers had opposed the grant of bail for him. But the government, through presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, denied that the grant of bail to Enrile was a setback at all, as the high court "implicitly recognized" the President's declaration of rebellion and the warrantless arrests. The administration insisted that it was just the beginning of the court battles.

* * *

Apparently what the Supreme Court did was to arrive at a solomonic decision, and one can surmise that this was aimed at lowering the current level of tension. The high court granted interim bail to Enrile on the ground that the evidence presented by the government against him in the rebellion case was "hearsay evidence" so far; i.e., the testimony of a military non-commissioned personnel and two government agents did not constitute direct evidence.

But what lawyers point out as significant is that the high court did not question the legality of the arrest of Enrile or his detention, in view of the fact that an information had already been filed with the Quezon City regional trial court. In fact, the Supreme Court said that it "tailored narrowly" its position so as not to preempt the lower court's resolution of Enrile's guilt and that the government was not precluded from filing additional evidence to buttress its case.

* * *

By not ruling against the legality of the arrest and the detention, it could be said that the high court effectively upheld the government's move to declare a condition of rebellion. But it should also be pointed out the high court apparently bent over backwards for Enrile, for normally, as lawyers stress, in a petition for habeas corpus, as Enrile's and Maceda's pleas were all about, bail is not granted; the jurisprudence is that once information is filed, detention becomes legal. But this time the high court chose to grant an "interim bail" to Enrile, while declaring Maceda's petition moot as bail was already granted to the latter by a lower court.

Lakas Sen. Renato Cayetano was quick to point out that the grant of interim bail was a recognition of the validity of warrantless arrests and the declaration of a state of rebellion. On the other hand, government corporate counsel Amado Valdez was quoted over the radio as saying that this accession to interim bail by the high court was something unprecedented, as normally it would just dismiss the case if it thought it had no merit. Valdez also opined that in allowing Enrile's interim bail without repudiating the validity of his warrantless arrest or the state of rebellion existing, the high tribunal did a balancing act in recognizing the state's need to protect itself and the right of private individuals to be free.

* * *

That the high tribunal was well aware that the legal question facing it involved deep political overtones was very evident from that unprecedented decision. As for Enrile, his prayer to the high court was to be released because of illegal detention; but he also prayed that in the event that his detention is deemed legal, he be allowed to post bail. Lawyers point out that by posting bail, Enrile acknowledged that his detention was legal, otherwise he could have opted to stay in jail, be a political martyr and fight it out from there to freedom. The high court also admitted this legality, for how could it grant bail if the detention was illegal?

* * *

Enrile is doubtless aware that he could go back to jail once more, and that his interim bail remains, as one lawyer put it, "open sesame *pa rin*." In this connection it is proper to ask what significance the Supreme Court's ruling on Enrile's interim bail has on Sen. Gregorio Honasan who has evaded arrest on rebellion charges till now. The fugitive senator was heard on radio saying he didn't want to turn himself in as he couldn't find justice in the courts. But Justice Secretary Hernando Perez immediately aired an appeal for Honasan to surrender to him as he assured him of due process.

Honasan should really consider the "legal accommodation" his mentor got from the high court, instead of running away from the law. True, he may not be sure he'd get the same deal from the high court as Enrile due to Honasan's lack of stature and clout in the judiciary; but at least he can see that the high court can be sensitive to certain realities.

Who created that mob?

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

NO rally, no march was ever like "that." Unbelievable and frightening was that May 1 mass of people.

But I'd like to go farther back and ask—who created that "monster mob," "monster," not to describe the people, but to point out the snowballing hugeness of that crowd.

How did we have so many poor, pouring in and spilling out of Edsa? Did we realize that Metro Manila was sheltering entire colonies of such people? Who among us realized the meagerness of the education of a people that could not see how guilty Estrada was, despite the impeachment trial on TV? As a worker remarked, it was "Rosalinda" to them, not the real thing! Who among us realized how easy it would be to herd this people, instigate them with "*sugod,*" and push them to the brink of death and get them to think it was their idea?

Who among us realized that they were still in the grip of the *pangulo* mentality, believing that the *pangulo*, the *amo*, our versions of royalty, was entitled to some wrongdoing? Who were they, not to forgive him? Who realized how much *awa* and anger engulfed them? Who knew or realized how many were on drugs?—one out of four, said the doctor who tested a batch of 38. How we feared that that mob bussed, fed and paid and therefore controllable, might release a life of its own as it rampaged down Mendiola, right to the gates of Malacañang.

Who created that "monster mob"?

We all did, you and me, some more guilty then others; some much more guilty than the rest put together.

We did, by indifference. We did, by lack of real understanding of the poverty problem besides what the books say and despite our forays into charitable works. The very rich and powerful did, by a smugness that they are secure in their aeries and that they, as Rigoberto Tiglao writes, can always capture the State; forgetting that as Tiglao continues they must serve the needs of the majority or perish. Now perhaps, they have come eyeball to eyeball with that majority.

Most of our movies did, by their vulgarity and violence, by their distorted renditions of *amo* and *asawa*, *api* and *awa*, *mayaman* and *mahirap*. All that stone-throwing, screaming, rampaging and denouncing could have been taken right out of a movie, except that this was real.

A galloping population did. One person in every square foot is a tinderbox. If the Church must reject any population program they must teach natural birth control systematically. The parish network is an enviable mechanism already in place.

The government is of course a catch-all for fault-finding, with its token attention to poverty, its utter lack of housing and basic services, with a serious qualitative deficiency in its educational system. In desperation, a friend said, "Never mind all those values-values—just what's right and what's wrong." Said another, "bring back Civics or its equivalent, obligations besides rights and voter education," instead of the spurts before elections. Our elementary and high school levels may be free but many don't go to school for lack of clothes. Always, always—the poverty problem enters the picture.

But who is the most culpable creator of that mob? No other but the politicians. They it is who created the kind of citizenry that massed and exploded last May 1. They it is who with their pathological lying, cheating and promising, destroyed for the people what truth is. They it is who with their stealing and greed, pocketed public funds leaving but small change for cosmetic beautification projects. Do they refuse to see the connection between the impoverishment of the people and their increasing wealth? They it is who have kept public service at the low level of personal favors and connections rather than issues and performance. They it is who with their constant denial of the wrongs they have done (Imelda has been in denial for more than 15 years; Erap will most probably be for the rest of his life) have erased all sense of public shame. What honor and dignity do the people see? Who bring in drugs? Who are behind gambling and smuggling?

Somewhere along the line, the public servant of old becomes the "politician" that we now have in abundance. Why are we so angry? Estrada, Enrile, Maceda, Binay are but the crowning glory of a political culture created by the likes of them. Miriam is a one-of-a-kind aberration. Honasan and Lacson are military men turned sinister politicians. They're at the top and not the only ones.

On the morning after, my friend Auring said, "the crisis is over." No, Auring, the crisis is not yet over, not as long as our mayors and congressmen want to get rich quick.

Asuncion David Maramba is a book editor, retired professor and occasional journalist.

War of the memes and Erap's end

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

GENES seek immortality, according to one radical interpretation of modern biology, by hijacking bodies to do the work of indefinite propagation. Each human being alive today, is an expression of a race of genes that have survived by making superior reproducers. Since we inherit genes from our parents, there are human genes that are two million years old, the actual survivors of the hundred thousand human generations that are in the fossil record. It's a strange concept.

Richard Dawkins, the Oxford evolutionary biologist who was an early proponent of this take on genetics, came up with an even more bizarre notion. Writing in his 1986 book, "The Blind Watchmaker," he invented the term "memes," pronounced like "themes," which he likened to genes, but in the realm of ideas. He speculated that some ideas are particularly powerful survivors in the stream of history by hijacking human brains and getting them to do the work of propagation into other brains.

The memes of religion and morals are probably as old as the biological species of human beings itself, as are the memes of family, tribe and nation. Good and evil, war and peace, also memes in their own right, have been allies of the meme of religion for ages. Justice and retribution, salvation and damnation, democracy, dictatorship and the myriad of social systems, are all memes that have managed to survive in human brains since these could think. (Suicide is an odd meme. It has survived despite causing most of its hosts to die, even managing to mutate into the meme of euthanasia, recently legitimized in Scandinavia.)

According to the theory, memes get human brains to write books, deliver speeches, produce poems, dramas and paintings, invent television and telecommunications, organize political parties and create ideologies and philosophies, in order to spread themselves to other brains and hence survive. Newspapers, books, TV and radio are powerful weapons that memes employ for and against one another. So are election campaigns. A veritable war of the memes is constantly fought on the battlegrounds of media, culture and technology.

We have seen this war of the memes at work in our own country. Former President Joseph Estrada now goes off into a long twilight fight in the labyrinth of the law. There, he will struggle with Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, the Minotaur, tasked to pursue him, who exasperates the public by making the law seem such a stumbling block and bumbling foe to ultimate justice.

Unlike the creature of Cretan myth, which was half-man, half-bull (the head part), the Ombudsman sometimes acts more lost in his own maze than his intended quarry. Both Erap and Desierto must now make good on their respective oaths of office, despite themselves, one to answer for breaking it so thoroughly, the other to justify ever even making it.

But I think we shall miss Erap for bringing so much clarity to the question of what we don't want to see in a President of the Republic, now or ever again. He was a lightning rod for everything that decent society detests when flaunted in public, instead of hidden discreetly and cleverly. Of course, Erap has not been convicted of anything yet, and is presumed innocent of all charges until proven guilty in a court of law, as his implacably technical lawyers are always pointing out. But in the court of public opinion, I hope we are seeing the end of Erap's reign—a vast criminal enterprise hiding behind the powerful meme of a rich versus the-poor demagoguery.

A war between competing memes that will go on indefinitely is the one precipitated by the "Live Show" controversy, which features the particularly interesting memes of pornography, morality, religion and democracy.

Speaking of pornography, "Deep Throat" was a hugely scandalous triple-X rated adult film that portrayed fellatio on American movie screens like no hardcore porno flick had ever done before. (Even if you're old enough to read this article by yourself, please do not look up the meaning of the f-word in the last sentence if your mother is a "moral terrorist" since she will probably write a nasty letter to the editor against me for contributing to the vocabulary of an innocent child.) I saw "Deep Throat" in San Francisco years ago, but now I can hardly remember a thing about it. However, I am daily titillated by artsy-fartsy advertising on billboards, television, newspapers and magazines that use the same techniques as pornographers do to arouse my prurient interest, not in sex, but in clothes, cars, blue jeans, perfume, deodorant and every other commercial product under the sun. For years the advertising industry has conducted a campaign touting itself as a champion of "the right to choose."

Speaking of vocabulary, commentator Minyong Ordoñez, ironically chair and chief executive of Basic Advertising Inc., yesterday attacked "the smart aleck" who first used the term "moral terrorist" as an oxymoron-monger. He claims that the term "moral terrorist" is an "oxymoron," a species of self-contradictory terms like "cruel kindness," or "giant shrimp" or the more subtle and devastating, "military intelligence." Actually, I wish I were the smart aleck who invented such a playfully pugnacious term as "moral terrorist," but I think it was the fired MTRCB Chair Nick Tiongson.

Ordoñez seems to have missed the point behind this term entirely. He asks, "So, how in heaven's name can morals be the cause of terrorism? How can those who believe in morality become terrorists?" Well, one only needs to consider the decades-long war between Israelis and Palestinians where the heroes of each side are terrorists to the other. Communists, fascists and dictators are often moralistic terrorists too. Before that, in an endless feast of blood and bones, we have the Crusades and the Inquisition, the witch hunts of the Medieval Ages, and God knows what other terrors throughout history, in the war of moralistic memes.

'Edsa III' leavings; ethnic labels

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

PICTURES speak a thousand words, as the saying goes. But sometimes captions give impressions that go beyond the message the pictures purport to convey.

This was the gist of Rachel Faller's letter to the Inquirer with regard to the May 1 front-page photo of a heap of garbage in front of the Edsa Shrine with the following caption: "At the end of the day, only heaps of garbage remain as INC members leave Edsa after five days of protesting the arrest of ex-President Estrada."

Describing herself as an executive secretary of the Iglesia ni Cristo, Faller wrote: "INC members went to Edsa ONLY on the night of 29 April (Sunday). I went home around 11 p.m. of the same day as I needed to report for work the next day. We went there not for Erap but for the preservation of human rights and the Constitution.

"I mean, Erap should be given a fair trial and should be given extraordinary treatment being an ex-head of state. After emissaries of the government went to our office in Quezon City, 30 April (Monday) all members were advised to leave the place.

"There were other religious groups who went to Edsa so why are you singling out the INC? They may have left garbage at the vicinity but it doesn't mean that we were the only ones who dumped those garbage as what you are trying to imply."

When informed about the complaint, the editor in chief explained that there was no intention on the part of the newspaper to portray the members of the INC as responsible for the garbage left behind by the pro-Estrada ralliers.

The reason why the INC was mentioned in the caption was that its members were reportedly the most numerous among the ralliers. The caption underscored the significance the government gave to the INC so much so that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and three other high-ranking government officials, upon the instructions of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, met with the INC leadership to discuss the withdrawal of its faithful from the rallies.

The editor in chief conceded that the caption could have been written differently to send the message intended without giving the impression that the INC was responsible for the garbage.

The Inquirer apologizes to the INC and its members for the unflattering caption. It regrets whatever damage or injury the caption may have caused the organization and its members for whom the newspaper has the highest respect.

PDI is pro-Erap?

A reader from Cebu, Ramon Blanch, was unhappy with the contents of the April 30 front-page news of the newspaper. The banner headline for that issue was, "Defense of Palace starts." A photo of the floor of the Ever Gotesco Central mall in Caloocan City damaged by grenades was on the upper half of the page. At the right-hand side of the page was Amando Doronila's "Analysis" which bore the headline, "Country sitting on edge of civil war."

Blanch wrote: "Your main stories today suggest that the Philippines is in chaos and on the brink of a civil war. Have you checked your story? Have you verified the rest of the country? Is there indeed an overall unrest of the population? Your reporters might be confused to equate Manila to be the Philippines and vice versa.

"You are projecting to the whole world a sorry state of the entire nation when in fact you should say that this is only isolated and happening in the capital. You are now in fact scaring foreigners and investors by painting the wrong picture of our country. You have unwittingly allowed yourselves to be used by the pro-Erap forces into projecting their agenda."

No way will the Inquirer allow itself to be an instrument of the deposed president was the editor in chief's quick response to the reader's comments about the April 30 issue.

She underscored that the news reports and photos that came out in that issue merely reflected the incidents that happened the day before. The reporters and photographers did not invent them. The newspaper simply lived up to its mandate to report the news as they happen without regard to the parties who may be adversely affected in the process.

With reference to the article written by Doronila, the editor in chief explained that Doronila's analysis is his personal evaluation of the political situation on April 30. The article is not news, it was his interpretation of the ongoing political events.

That's why it carried the label "Analysis" in bold letters. The description was meant to inform the readers that what appears is one man's opinion, not a report of an event. Having warned the readers about the nature of the article, it is up to them to decide whether to believe it or dismiss it as unfounded or baseless.

By way of an aside (this time coming from the readers' advocate), Doronila is a veteran political and social commentator. He held important editorial positions in various newspapers before joining the Inquirer as editorial consultant. Because of his incisive criticisms of then President Marcos, he was arrested and detained for a long period of time during the martial law years.

Ifugaos, not Igorots

The Metro section of the newspaper last April 26 carried the story of two Ifugao natives who were sentenced to life imprisonment for the crime of illegal possession of marijuana committed five years ago. The news carried the headline "Igorot pair sentenced to life for drug raps."

Freddie Magno of the Central Luzon State University did not like the wording of the headline. He complained: "Why did your paper brand the two 'Igorots' when they are in fact natives of Ifugao Province? What do you mean by 'Igorot?' Maybe you wanted to suggest to the readers that you called them 'Igorots' because they are members of the so-called cultural minorities, ethnic groups or indigenous communities.

"In the book of the most notable Filipino anthropologist, F. Landa Jocano, there is no mention of the ethnic group 'Igorot.' What the Cordillera areas, which is home to many indigenous people, have are the following: Tinggian, Isneg-Apayao, Northern Kalinga, Bontoc, Sagada, Ifugao, Southern Kalinga, Ibaloi, Kankanay, Southern Gaddang and Ilongot."

Upon examination of the subject news and headline, it was clear the use of the word "Igorot" to describe the accused was erroneous. Without going to the issue of whether Igorots constitute a separate ethnic group, there is no question the headline did not match the substance of the news.

Obviously, the Inquirer goofed on this item. It is sorry for the unfortunate mixup of ethnic descriptions. The information shared by the reader on the Cordillera's ethnic profile will be put to good use in future issues relating to a similar subject matter.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Vote for the children's future

I PERSONALLY brought the campaign "Vote For Me" of ABS-CBN to Bongabong, Nueva Ecija last April 29 to reach those without television and radio.

The campaign urges voters to vote conscientiously because their votes will determine the future of the Filipino children. Together with me were small children from Bongabong who read a prayer for clean and honest elections, and the leading congressional candidate who is known to espouse new politics, lawyer Oyie Umali.

Toward the finale of the program, a small group of hecklers suddenly threw stones at the crowd, without regard for the safety of those who attended, especially the children.

I was told later that these hecklers were supporters of a rival candidate who is known for "*trapo*" tactics.

Throwing stones at children clearly demonstrates that *trapos* really have no regard for them or their future.

It is in this light that I call on voters to help realize clean and peaceful elections for the sake of our children. Let's give priority to the future of our children when we vote this coming May 14.—**GARY GRANADA, Rm. 201 PCED Hostel, UP Diliman, Quezon City**

Is electric power adjustment a real issue?

THIS has reference to recent paid advertisements in media carrying the message, "*Labanan ang* PPA....*dito itinatago ng* Meralco *at* NPC *ang kanilang pagkalugi.*" Considering that we are currently experiencing the country's favorite pastime, election season, it is not surprising (that those who take out the advertisements) place themselves into the public's consciousness and would resort to any means possible to achieve this end.

As explained, the PPA or Purchased Power Adjustment, is an automatic adjustment mechanism approved by the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB), similar to other automatic mechanisms found in the bills of all electric distribution utilities in the country, including electric cooperatives.

The manner by which the PPA is computed monthly is monitored and scrutinized by the ERB. These are on record and readily available for the public's perusal. The ERB, not the mass media, is the proper venue for any complaints on the PPA. It is however understandable that certain individuals would rather use media as a venue since the ERB may not provide them with the necessary publicity as they salivate their way to public office.—**DENNIS DAVID, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan**

Santiago's performance in the Senate

THIS refers to a series of write-ups by Rina Jimenez-David against Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago that appeared in her column recently.

Allow me to summarize the senator's sterling achievements in the past six years:

1. Senator Santiago was hailed for her crusade against anomalous transactions in government such as the P438-billion foreign debt of the National Power Corp., stemming from alleged onerous contracts with independent power producers; the P9.2-billion Centennial Expo scandal, with unconstitutional fund-juggling; the P6.6-billion national lotto scandal, with the contract awarded to a Malaysian gambling firm; the P3.2-billion DILG scandal on a monopoly contract awarded to a favored drug-testing firm; and the P278-million Philippine Coconut Authority scandal, with foreign loans diverted to the charter charge (cha-cha) campaign.

2. The senator is one of the most hardworking senators. She had the biggest number of bills and resolutions filed from 1998 to 2000 as well as privilege speeches delivered between 1995 and 1998. She also filed the biggest number of committee reports as chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws.

Santiago also earned nationwide admiration as an honest senator, when media reported she was the only senator who did not get pork barrel funds in 1996.

She voted against the proposed transfer of the Senate from the Congress Building on Taft Avenue to the PNB Building on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay. She opposed spending P200 million for the transfer, and proposed instead an inexpensive transfer to the COA Building on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

Santiago launched the first and only training program for the youth called Summer sa Senado, a one month program that teaches college students the basics of legislation and how to be an effective senator.

If the criterion in the coming elections is performance in public office, Santiago undoubtedly passes with flying colors. David's regular tirades and name-calling are not the right way to educate the voters. It is un-Christian to advocate voters' education while engaging in character assassination, which is associated with traditional politics. The failure of some members of the media to do their research should not burden the public with disinformation. We believe the public deserves to know that Santiago dedicated the past six years of her life in rendering exemplary public service as a legislator.—**FLOR L. OFILADA, secretary general, People's Reform Party, 4th Floor, Narsan Building, 3 West 4th Street, West Triangle, Quezon City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

LETTERS

Mocking Morato for fighting for decency

I AM one of your readers here in Cebu. I am writing because on the front page last March 29, 2001, you featured a cartoon that made fun or mocked outright Manuel Morato, whose advocacy for the poor, moral recovery and sustainable economic development I happen to find worth supporting in the coming senatorial elections.

I don't believe a national paper such as yours should be making fun of people who served honestly in the past two administrations, and who was the very first to blow the whistle on the dangerous gambling habits of the ousted president, and who is spending his own money in serving the poor in our society.

Perhaps, your paper can help us elect the right senators by featuring them in a serious manner, highlighting their government careers and their platforms, instead of making silly caricatures of them. Such caricatures properly belong to tabloids than to a national paper like yours.

It pains simple people like me to see someone we believe in reviled simply because he is campaigning for decency.

Did Morato really shriek as you reported? The meaning of that word is "make a shrill outcry," or "*tili*" in Filipino. Or were you just mocking him for saying that whoever tampered with the legal regulations of the censors should be jailed?—**LOUIE G. NACORDA, 1036-D V. Rama Ave., Cebu City**

WE ran a serious article about Manuel Morato in the March 18, 2001 issue of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine, under the column "Voter's Voice." We apologize for the use of the word "shrieks" in the head. It might not have been the most correct and appropriate word to use for the story.—Ed.

What's the basis for Maynilad story?

IN THE INTEREST of accuracy, we point out three things in the news article, "Maynilad seeks TRO vs MWSS" by Christine A. Gaylican.

It appears that not a single Maynilad official was interviewed by your reporter and therefore she had no basis for the quotes which appeared in her story. In fact, only our president, Rafael M. Alunan III, has been speaking or reporting on the Auto Cera issue and he was not interviewed either by her.

Lastly, the story said the petition "could trigger as much as (a) P64 per cubic meter increase in the basic water rates." This figure, to say the least, is preposterous. The fact is, until the government finally decides on the petition and the manner in which we will be allowed to recover our foreign exchange losses, no one can say exactly how much the increase will be.

Again, our thanks for helping make the public aware of the pros and cons of the Auto Cera issue.—**JESUS S. MATUBIS JR., manager, Corporate Affairs, Maynilad Water Services Inc., MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City**

FIRSTLY, I would like to say that I stand by my story. My basis for the report was an interview with a high-ranking Maynilad official whose name I cannot divulge.

Secondly, the P64 assumption was based on earlier computations of the formulas (the creeping mechanism and the Eights formula—because the rate increase is divisible by P8 per cubic meter) proposed by Maynilad and which is being studied by the MWSS Regulatory Office.—**CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN**

Stupid is what stupid does

SEN. Tito Sotto's remark in last Saturday's "StarTalk" interview revealed what is wrong with voting unqualified people into public office.

To Butch Francisco's question of whether he would have voted otherwise (on the opening of the second envelope) had he known it would result in what's happening now, his answer was: "In the future, students of the law would say that we were right." He pointed out rather smugly that he had a number of lawyers and even a judge as advisers.

What his statement proved was that even if you have brilliant advisers behind you, if you're stupid you will still make stupid decisions.

Look at what happened to his *kumpareng* Erap.—**ED DAMES, 24th Floor, The Enterprise Center Tower 2, 6766 Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

Return to nature and the organic

I VISITED Greenbelt lately and was disappointed with what I saw. There was hardly anything green. Isn't that ironic?

I remember that this place used to have an aviary. But of course, that is long gone. Still, I know that this tiny square in the midst of Makati's business district was intended to be a park, a haven where one can be with nature. But now even its trees are cooped up in boxes of concrete.

And with the development going on there at a furious pace, I fear for the fate of those precious trees. You know how we just cut trees when they get in the way. I hope they don't do anything drastic there, though I noticed that they have already cut some of the trees.

Now, why are we destroying these last vestiges of nature? So we can look modern? Advanced? Hi-tech? Look again, because countries that are really advanced and modern, those who are not pretending to be hi-tech, are going back to nature themselves. Organic produce is getting more popular than synthetically enhanced products. Organic is no longer for hippies. It is going mainstream. More so, with the mad cow scare. Why shouldn't we?—**JAKE L. SANTOS, 14 Elgin St., Fairview, Quezon City**

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The WORLD

Macedonia considers state of war

SKOPJE—Macedonia's leaders, facing an insurgence by ethnic Albanian rebels, are to start consultations on whether to declare a state of war, its Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski announced.

Government security troops have been shelling rebel positions in the northeast of the former Yugoslav republic since Thursday after the rebels killed 10 servicemen in a week.

But they so far have failed to dislodge the guerrillas from positions in several villages despite a barrage of artillery fire and occasional helicopter attacks.

The battle has revived fears of widening conflict that major powers hoped had been stifled last month when a government offensive drove back guerrilla forces who had occupied the hills above the western town of Tetovo.

"We have discussed this issue very seriously but first we have to consult other political parties before taking a decision," Georgievski said on Saturday.

Georgievski, who is also acting defense minister and leader of the main Slav Macedonian party in the government coalition which also includes an ethnic Albanian party, spoke after a meeting with President Boris Trajkovski and security officials.

Asked when such a decision could be taken, the premier said: "There is no deadline, it could be Tuesday or Wednesday."

According to the constitution a state of war, which gives wider rights to the security forces, must be approved by a two-thirds parliamentary majority.

"We are thinking about this not because the Army and the police are not able to withstand the attacks (by the rebels) but to give them more room for maneuver," he said before the meeting.

Georgievski warned that new "provocations" by the rebels were expected overnight or on Sunday and again said the insurgence was exported from neighboring Albanian-majority Kosovo.

"It is obvious that we are facing a well-organized paramilitary terrorist force. All the information we have shows that these terrorist forces are coming from Kosovo, so there is no doubt it is an aggression from there."

Georgievski singled out the Kosovo Protection Corps, a civilian force which includes many former members of the now disbanded. Kosovo Liberation Army which had fought Serb forces. *Reuters*

A COLUMN of Macedonian army troops and tanks moves on the road near the village of Lipkovo, 40 km east of the capital Skopje May 5.

REUTERS

Germany emerging as new boss of Europe

BRUSSELS, Belgium—There's a new European Union on the Horizon—one with more than two dozen states that will have a single currency, a common foreign policy, its own military force and, after years of hesitation, a newly assertive Germany.

The politically incorrect question now is: Will Berlin, however reluctantly, become the boss of this Europe, an ambition it failed o achieve in two world wars? Probably. But one man' domination is another man's leadership.

French diplomacy has long been at the forefront of uniting Europe politically and economically in what is now called the European Union. Germany, suffering for half a century from a postwar reticence to exert the power its population and economic clout deserved, allowed France to do the driving while Germany quietly paid for the gas.

"France took care of the ideas, Germany the means and Italy the flexibility of structure," said Frits Bolkestein, the European Union's Commissioner for internal market affairs.

At the union's summit last December, in agreeing to accept the same voting power as France, Britain and Italy on EU decisions, Germany bowed to France, but perhaps for the last time. Looking further down the road, Germany won the promise of 99 seats in an enlarged European Parliament, against 72 each for France, Britain and Italy.

The implication was clear: The German era had begun.

The numbers make German ascendancy seem obvious. It has 82 million people, 23 million more than France. It generates 24 percent of the European Union's gross domestic product, compared with France's 16 percent. It's smaller than France geographically, but straddles the center of Central Europe. *AP*

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Tito back from 'trip to paradise'

NEAR ARKALYK, Kazakhstan—The world's first-ever space tourist Dennis Tito hailed a "trip to paradise" Sunday after the US millionaire and two Russian cosmonauts successfully landed back on Earth.

The dramatic touchdown in the Kazakhstan desert went without hitches at 0535 GMT (1:35 p.m. in Manila), six minutes ahead of schedule, ending Tito's controversial eight-day holiday in space, Russian space officials told AFP.

Smiling broadly as he emerged from the charred space capsule, to be carried by medical crew to a nearby tent for a routine check-up, Tito was full of praise for the experience of a lifetime.

"It was paradise, a great flight and great landing, there were absolutely no difficulties" Tito told AFP. "It was perfect. I had my dream."

But the 60-year-old Californian toasted his safe return to Earth as "a great day for NASA," tactfully ignoring a bitter row between the Russian and US space agencies sparked by his 20-million-dollar trip to the International Space Station (ISS).

However, Tito warned that he was only blazing a trail for future space tourists who could now emulate his feat provided they had the money and despite US concern his much-publicized journey has set a dangerous precedent.

Asked by AFP if he wanted to return to space, Tito replied: "No, I want other people to have this experience," before adding: "Maybe in three years' time."

The retired space engineer was visibly elated as he described how the Russian capsule had made "a soft landing, but on the side."

Indeed he tried to walk unassisted from the capsule after his ordeal until Russian emergency staff gently pushed him into the chair traditionally on hand for cosmonauts after touchdown.

Earlier the Soyuz TM-31 craft, which brought the American businessman, chief cosmonaut Talgat Musabayev and engineer Yury Baturin, back to Earth, had undocked successfully from the International Space Station at 0221 GMT Sunday.

The spacecraft orbited the Earth once before landing near the town of Arkalyk in the remote northern steppes of Kazakhstan in a spectacular climax to Tito's 20-million-dollar adventure.

The pioneering trip by an amateur astronaut into outer space had sparked concern about the 60-year-old's fitness, but Tito's physical and mental condition was praised by his two fellow cosmonauts shortly after touchdown.

"Tito is a very strong man and a very proud man," Talgat Musabayev told AFP.

After the medical checkup the three cosmonauts were due to be taken to the Kazakh capital Astana, where they were expected to meet Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and hold a press conference at around 1000 GMT before flying on to Moscow.

Four Russian planes, nine helicopters and some 300 emergency staff were on hand for the touchdown.

In his last communication before the landing, Tito said he felt "very good," the head of Russia's cosmonaut training center Pyotr Klymuk told the Interfax news agency.

The eight days he spent in space had been "the best time of my life," the millionaire was quoted as saying by Itar-Tass.

His space voyage sparked a row between the Russian space agency and NASA, who objected to the fact that Tito had paid 20 million dollars to make his unprecedented trip to the ISS.

NASA chief Daniel Goldin has suggested that Tito's presence on the ISS hampered the work of its professional astronauts and placed extra stress on mission controllers, while the American side is seeking compensation from Russia. *AFP*

TITO: Thumbs up for textbook landing. REUTERS

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Blast rocks north London post office

LONDON—An explosion rocked a post office in north London early Sunday, the 20th anniversary of a deadly hunger strike by jailed Irish militants, police said.

One person was slightly injured in the blast, which occurred at a mail depot that suffered a similar explosion three weeks ago that has been blamed on the dissident Irish group, the Real IRA.

Police sealed off the depot in Hendon, north London, and firefighters and paramedics were at the scene, a Scotland Yard spokesperson said on customary condition of anonymity. Anti-terrorism officers were also on scene.

The blast occurred in the pre-dawn hours of the 20th anniversary of the death of hunger striker Bobby Sands, an Irish Republican Army member held prisoner at Northern Ireland's notorious Maze prison.

Sands, who refused food for 66 days, was the first of 10 young Irish militants to die of self-imposed starvation in the prison. Irish republican leaders consider the strike a watershed moment in their struggle for Northern Irish independence from Britain.

Saturday's explosion was at the same mail-sorting center as an April 15 bomb blast that blew out windows, but caused no injuries. Police later linked the blast to the Real IRA.

London went on a heightened security alert in March and police said they feared further attacks after a car bomb exploded outside the British Broadcasting Corp. on March 4.

The Real IRA, a group opposed to the Irish Republican Army's ceasefire and the Good Friday peace agreement, is suspected of carrying out the attack. It has been blamed for several other violent acts in London, including a mortar attack on the headquarters of the MI6 spy agency in September and a bomb that exploded on Hammersmith Bridge in west London last June. *AP*

Israelis raid Palestinian territory anew

JERUSALEM—At least 14 Palestinians were injured when Israeli tanks entered a Palestinian-controlled area outside Jerusalem and fired shells at gunmen who had been shooting at Israeli motorists, witnesses said Sunday. A 5-year-old Palestinian boy was seriously hurt.

The most intense exchange of fire broke out in Beit Jalla, near the southern edge of Jerusalem, but shooting also erupted elsewhere in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In Israel, an explosion went off in Petach Tikva, near Tel Aviv, injuring one woman lightly. The Israeli Army said that what appeared to be mortar shells landed near the town of Sderot, just outside the Gaza Strip.

In Beit Jalla, the Israeli Army said it fired tank shells toward the Palestinian gunmen, who were shooting at a road linking Jerusalem to Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Israeli paratroopers entered the Palestinian-controlled town to counter the "massive" shooting coming from inside the town, military sources said.

Makram al-Arja, a Palestinian living in Beit Jalla, said he saw several Israeli tanks advance several hundred meters into the town and open fire.

The Israeli Army has briefly entered Palestinian-controlled areas on several occasions in the past month in response to Palestinian attacks. The moves have drawn international criticism, and the Israelis have withdrawn in each instance.

At least 14 Palestinians were hurt Sunday, including a 5-year-old boy injured seriously by shrapnel and an 11-year-old girl, according to the hospital in Beit Jalla.

Palestinian gunmen in the town have repeatedly fired on the nearby Jewish neighborhood of Gilo, several hundred meters across a valley, on land captured from Jordan in the 1967 and later annexed and declared part of Jerusalem.

Sunday's gunbattle came a day after the killing in nearby Bethlehem of a local leader of the radical Muslim group Islamic Jihad. According to the Palestinians, Ahmed Khalil Assad, 37, died from multiple gunshot wounds fired by Israeli soldiers from a nearby hill.

Israel did not say whether it was responsible for the killing. However, the action bore the hallmarks of other "pinpoint attacks" that the military has carried out in recent months against suspected Palestinian militants. *AP*

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India starts war games, sends signals to China, Pakistan

NEW DELHI—India's largest war games in 13 years will send signals to neighbors Pakistan and China that cross-border military adventures would lead to a swift but conventional response, defense analysts said.

Experts also said India's ongoing maneuvers in the deserts of Rajasthan state on Pakistan's borders kill the concept that acquisition of nuclear arms by the two South Asian archrivals had eliminated conventional warfare.

"We think this integrated exercise is at multiple levels and the first is to prepare the ground forces to fight a limited conventional war in a realistic manner," said Indian senior military analyst Kapil Kak.

"The first message of the exercise is: If India has to fight a conventional war it will not shy away. A signal has somehow gone that nuclearization has eliminated limited warfare concepts," Kak, a former air vice marshal of the Indian Air Force, told AFP.

More than 60,000 troops, heavy armor such as Russian built T-72 tanks, artillery and around 100 transport and combat aircraft are involved in the mammoth five-day war games which began Saturday in the Bikaner sector of Rajasthan state, in northern India.

The Indian Air Force, which held its own exercises involving more than 100 jets last year, will launch mock ground attacks during the exercise, code named "Complete Victory."

The maneuvers will end with the firing of high-caliber live ammunition, rockets and other missiles in India's nuclear weapons test zone of Pokhran in Rajasthan.

The maneuvers aim to "evaluate concepts and practice battle procedures during offensive and defensive operations on the future battlefield, with a nuclear backdrop," the Indian government said.

"The operation aims to enhance the Army's operational preparedness through the conduct of a number of tactical exercises with troops and live firing under simulated battle conditions. *AFP*

'Great Train Robbery' brains may return home

RIO DE JANEIRO—Fugitive Ronnie Biggs, 71, the brains behind the legendary 1963 "Great Train Robbery," may fly back to Britain late Saturday after three decades of self-imposed exile in Brazil, his lawyer said.

Wellington Mousinho Lins dos Campos told reporters that an aircraft chartered by The Sun, Britain's biggest-selling daily newspaper, to take his notorious client home had permission to take off from 10 p.m. Saturday.

The lawyer, who held a press conference in a local bar, said that while Biggs was returning to Britain "of his own free will" he does not consider his client to be in a fit mental state to be making such a decision.

Mousinho said he would ask the Brazilian authorities to get Biggs to sign documents stating that the decision to leave was his own choice—failing which, the lawyer warned, he would bring charges of kidnap.

Mousinho said he would ask the authorities to carry out a mental and physical exam of Biggs, one of Britain's most notorious criminals who fled Britain after escaping from prison where he was serving a 30-year sentence for his role in the robbery.

Biggs was part of a gang that escaped with a then-record 2.6 million pounds—estimated to be about $75 million in today's money—after holding up a mail train.

Biggs has said in a statement issued through a family friend in Britain that he has decided to hand himself over to the British authorities upon his arrival. *AFP*

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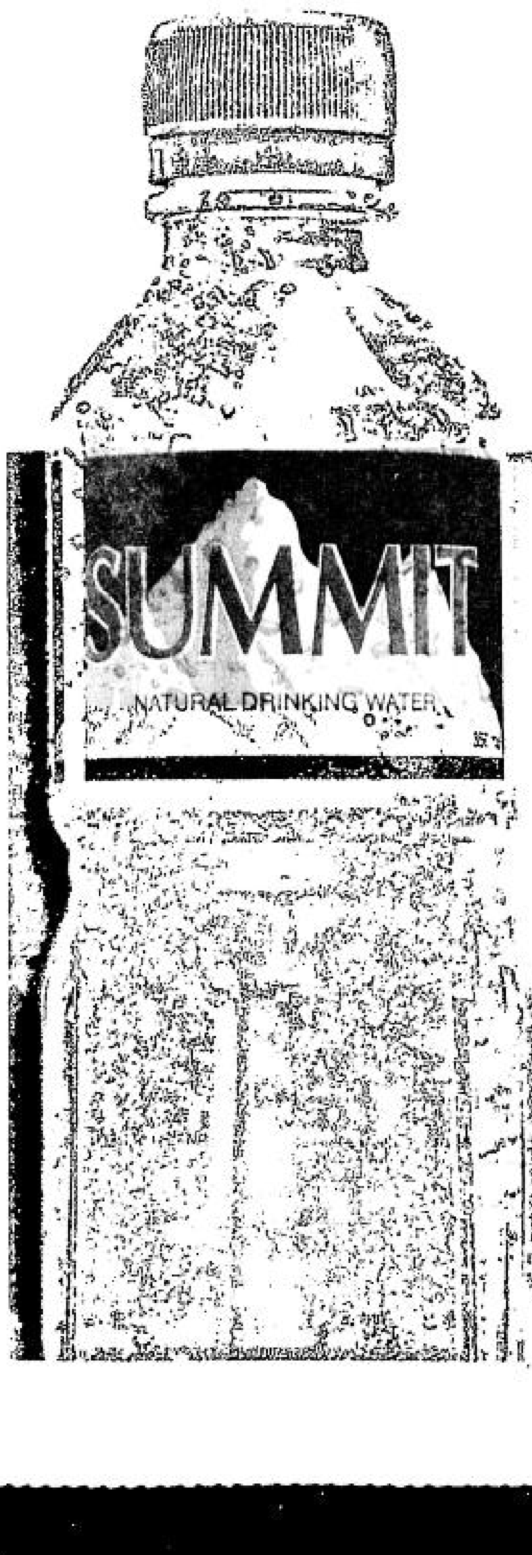

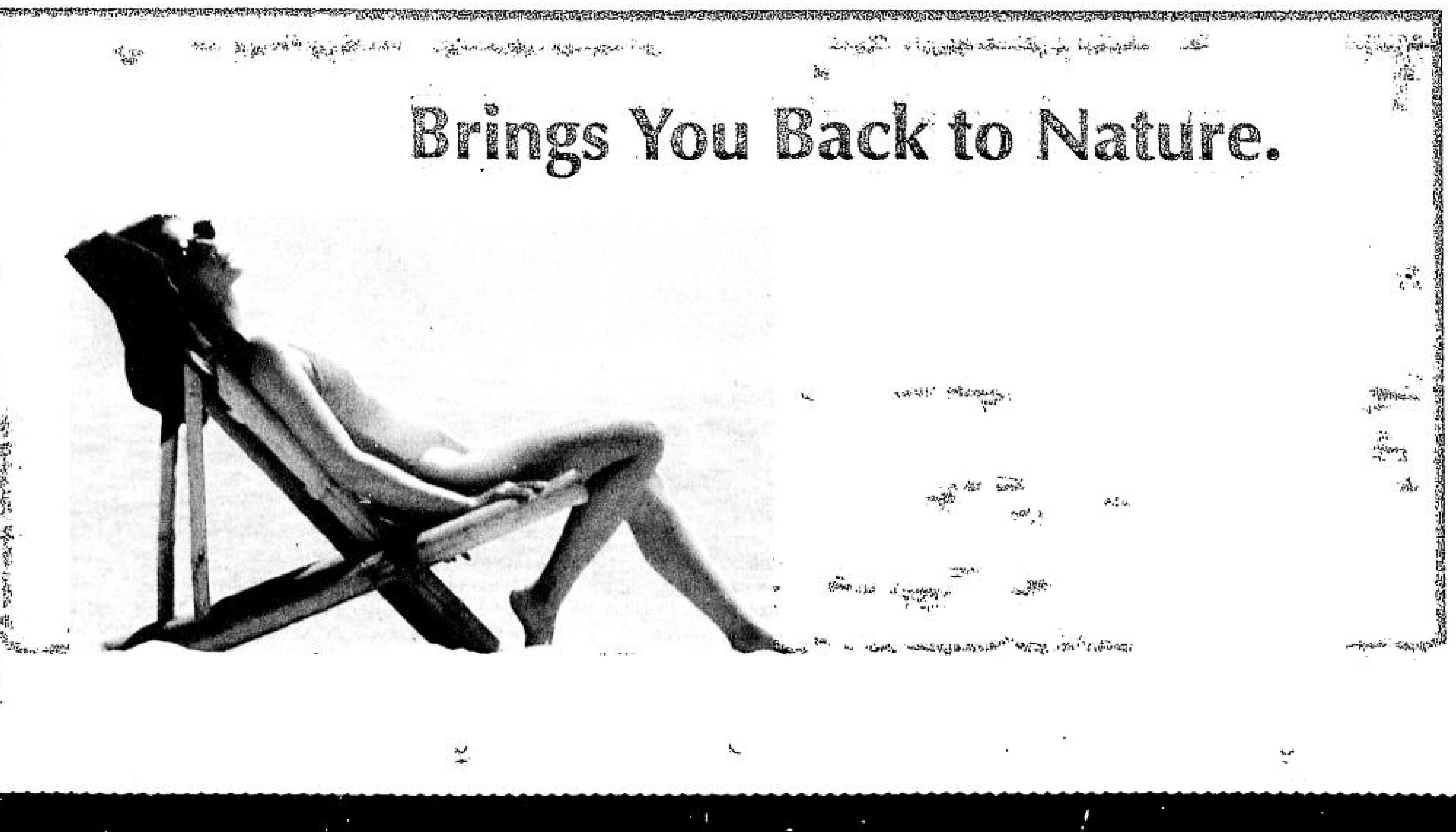
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Pope to enter Muslim mosque, make history

DAMASCUS—Pope John Paul on Sunday will become the first Pontiff to enter a mosque in Islam's 1,400-year history, moving Christian-Muslim relations onto a new level of co-existence.

On the second day of a pilgrimage to Syria to trace the steps of St. Paul the Apostle, the frail 80-year-old Pope is also expected to promote messages of inter-faith unity and Middle East peace at a Sunday mass for Syria's various Christian sects at a sports stadium in Damascus.

Tens of thousands of the Christian faithful are expected to attend the Mass at Abbassiyeen Stadium in the heart of the capital. Some 2.4 million Christians live among Syria's population of 17 million.

A few hours after the Mass, the Pope will make history when he recites a joint invocation—not a prayer—with Muslim clerics at the ancient Umayyad Mosque in Old City of Damascus.

The Pope began the historic pilgrimage to Syria on Saturday with an emotional plea to Israel and its Arab neighbors to reach out for peace in the troubled Middle East.

But if he needed a reminder of the deep hatreds in and around the Holy Land, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was there to reiterate a hard line against Israel.

Assad, who in March said Israelis were more racist than Nazis, called on the Pontiff to stand by the Arabs in their struggle to regain their land and their rights from Israel.

He likened the suffering of Arabs under Israeli occupation to the biblical suffering of Jesus Christ at the hands of first century Jews.

The Pope said he hoped that in the region, "fear will turn into trust and contempt to mutual esteem, that force will give way to dialogue, and that a genuine desire to serve the common good will prevail."

The Pontiff later had a 20-minute private audience with Assad at the presidential palace in which the Syrian leader spoke about the history of religions in Syria.

The Syrian state news agency Sana quoted the Pope as telling Assad: "Syria remains young in history and today it is led by a young man. That is why everyone expects a lot from her."

The Pope then shared his first prayers in Syria with Greek Orthodox bishops at the ancient Byzantine Mariyamiya Church, which has a fine collection of 18th-century icons.

Outside the church, located in the Christian quarter of Old Damascus, the Pope received a tumultuous welcome from an enthusiastic crowd in festive mood, in sharp contrast to the muted reception he received on his controversial visit to mainly Orthodox Greece.

The Pope's delicate pilgrimage of religious and political peace will take him on Monday to the demolished town of Quneitra, which Israel returned in 1974 after capturing it from Syria along with the rest of the Golan Heights in the Six Day War of 1967. *Reuters*

POPE John Paul II embraces Syrian Greek-Orthodox Archbishop Agnatios Hazim IV during a ceremony in Old City of Damascus May 5. The Pope is in Syria on a four-day visit.

REUTERS

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Execution binge in China: 500 in 1 month

BEIJING—Chinese police have arrested more than 10,000 suspected criminals in the first month of a "strike hard" campaign against organized crime, with at least 500 criminal executions being announced during the period, state press reported Sunday.

"Armed police teams, aided by public security bureau nationwide have recently captured more than 10,000 suspected felons, while wiping out evil forces and violent crime groups and striking at the swollen arrogance of criminals," the leading People's Daily said in a front page article.

The round up of suspected criminals began as early as April 7 in southeastern Fujian province and has spread nationwide, the report said.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin kicked off the campaign to wipe out rising violent and organized crime early last month.

A spate of new executions were also reported Sunday in the state press, bringing to nearly 500 publicly announced executions since the campaign began.

Xinhua news agency reported the April 25 execution of five convicted drug smugglers in southern Guangdong province, while the China Police Daily reported five executions on April 17 in Ningxia province and six other executions on April 24 in Sichuan province.

Two others were reported recently executed in Chaozhou, southern Guangdong province, Xinhua said in a separate report, while a businessman convicted of murdering a local official also met the death penalty in Changshui, Hubei province.

The additional numbers bring the total publicly announced executions since April 11, as tabulated by AFP, to 499. *AFP*

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Mobile phones forcing kids to pile up debts

SYDNEY, Australia—Schoolchildren and other young people are being forced into bankruptcy by running up huge debts on mobile phones after being deluged with offers of easy credit, officials say.

Mobile phone debts are being blamed for a doubling in the number of Australians under the age of 25 declaring bankruptcy in the past five years, The Sunday Telegraph newspaper said.

Fair Trading Minister John Watkins is threatening to prosecute phone companies who exploit young people by offering easy credit that allows them to run up big debts they can't pay.

"Some young people are now leaving school in debt, with a bad credit rating. That is just a tragic way to start out in life," Watkins was quoted as saying.

Thousands of young people have signed up for mobile phones, lured by advertisements promising service at low cost. Many end up receiving huge bills because they make hundreds of calls or don't check the complicated contracts they sign. • *AP*

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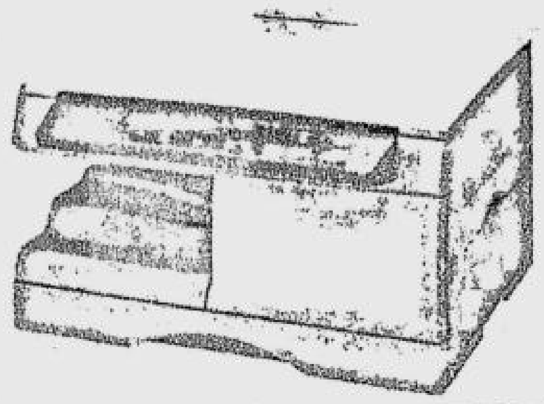

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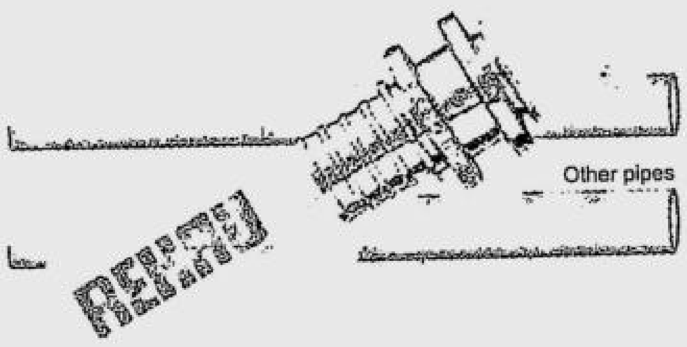

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Foe of militarization gunned down

BAGUIO CITY—A reelectionist councilor and member of the party-list group Bayan Muna in Balbalan, Kalinga was gunned down by armed men after a campaign sortie in the town on Monday.

A statement from the Bayan Muna-Kalinga chapter identified its slain member as Balbalan Councilor Peter Dangiwan, said to be the first candidate to be killed in Kalinga during this year's election period.

Reports said Dangiwan was gunned down as he and his companions were walking down a mountain trail in Barangay Tawang in Balbalan at around 7 a.m. on April 30. Dangiwan died of four bullet wounds in the body.

His assailants fled, reports said.

Officials of Bayan Muna in Kalinga demanded a speedy investigation of the case.

In a statement quoted by the Northern Dispatch, Bayan Muna said Dangiwan was calling for the reduction of Army soldiers and for the disbandment of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit stationed in his town.

The group said the slain councilor was also "consistent in his stand against the entry of foreign mining corporations" in the province.

The statement said Army soldiers arrested Dangiwan in 1994 on suspicions that he was the vice mayor of the "Municipal Revolutionary Government."

Bayan Muna claimed that the military had considered Dangiwan as a "former rebel" and that "pro-mining" and "pro-military" candidates were bothered by his growing popularity.

"These candidates have realized that their chances of winning remains dim as long as Peter (Dangiwan) was in the scene," said Bayan Muna statement.

"His killers remain unidentified but the people of Balbalan know who they are. His killers are those whose vested interests are seriously jeopardized by the effective activism of Peter," Bayan Muna added.

Violence also continued to mar the campaign in the Visayas.

In San Dionisio town 111 kilometers north of Iloilo City, unidentified men opened fire at a house of a candidate, injuring three people.

Mayoral candidate Pio Villanueva and running mate Ernesto Canong had just arrived at Villanueva's house from the town proper at past 10 p.m. when the suspects, carrying high-powered firearms, fired at the house, said SPO4 Anaclito Billones, San Dionisio deputy police chief.

Villanueva and Canong, candidates of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Conscience bloc, were unhurt but three other persons in the house were injured.

Dan Villanueva, 17, a nephew of Pio; Ricky Guion, 28, a nephew of Canong; and Renato Malones suffered minor injuries mostly in the legs, police said.

Guion and Malones were taken to the Sara District Hospital and were later released. Villanueva was taken to the Western Visayas Medical Center in Iloilo City.

Spent Armalite bullets and grenade shells were recovered from the scene.

The suspects fled in two Isuzu Fuego pick-up trucks, police said.

Victor Gaborne, acting provincial supervisor of the Commission on Elections in Iloilo, said the attack could be election-related based on reports by Cirilo Zerrudo, election officer of San Dionisio.

He said they are confirming reports that one of the pick-up trucks is owned by the municipal government.

Billones said one of the injured, Ricky Guion, told police investigators that the other Isuzu Fuego is owned by incumbent Mayor Peter Paul Lopez, who defeated Villanueva in the 1998 elections.

Lopez, a last-term mayor, is now running for vice mayor under the Partido ng Masang Pilipino. He could not be reached for comment.

Lopez has fielded his wife Saliha to run against Villanueva and two other mayoral candidates, Viola Bañaria (Reporma) and Pedro Jacomina (Lakas-NUCD).

The third contender for vice mayor is Remegio Alkonga (Lakas-NUCD).

San Dionisio is one of the 33 towns and cities in Western Visayas that have been identified by the Comelec as areas of concern for the coming elections.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Nestor Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau

Teachers seek bigger poll duty allowance

DAVAO CITY—Teachers in Mindanao have asked the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to increase their P800 allowance to P2,000 and have them "insured" for P500,000.

Abundancio Bulac, vice president for Mindanao of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), said they deserve better pay and insurance terms because of the risks and the heavy workload involved in serving the elections as board of election inspectors and in facilitating the counting, recording and in securing of ballots.

"Electoral politics in the Philippines is so acrimonious. What is even sad is that the teachers are among the most vulnerable to assault and violence," Bulac said.

Nicanor Gonzalez, chair of the Kahugpungan sa mga Magtutudlo ug Kawani sa Edukasyon sa Mindanao (Kamkem or the Association of Teachers and Employees in Education in Mindanao), said in the first place, teachers should not be deputized in the elections.

He said teachers are already among the most overworked people in the government and society.

"Our role as teachers is not to serve in the polls, our role is to teach. But we have to sacrifice our safety and endure low pay in serving in the elections because we are required to do so and (it is) a matter of service," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said they also want the government to assure them of free legal assistance because in the past they were left alone to face charges filed by losing candidates who blamed them for their defeat.

Diamar Kadon, regional director of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), said the Comelec has given assurances that each of teachers will get P800 for their services on the day of the elections.

But he said it was not clear if the Comelec will still give the teachers an additional P800 on the succeeding days when their services are still needed.

Kadon said the teachers deserve the pay and the insurance fees that they are demanding, considering the dangers they face especially in areas where tension is high.

Lino Joquiño, Comelec regional director, said the Comelec only provides allowances on the day of the elections. She said there are no provisions for the coming days except for the assurance that their transportation needs will be taken care of.

Joquiño said teachers are required to serve for at least a day and a half but those assigned to remote barangays may be required to extend their services to more than two days.

She said she was not aware of a Comelec resolution granting teachers insurance for their services in this year's elections.

But Joquiño said she already endorsed the teachers' requests to the Comelec *en banc* for evaluation and approval.

"I don't know if the (Comelec) *en banc* will grant that request considering our problems with regards to money," Joquiño said.

Bulac said President Macapagal should tap other sources of funds like the money from the Presidential Social Fund, and re-channel it to teachers serving in the elections.

Education Secretary Raul Roco earlier estimated that about 500,000 teachers are needed for the elections.

Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Widespread rains will be experienced over Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao while the rest of Visayas and Mindanao including Bicol region will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

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Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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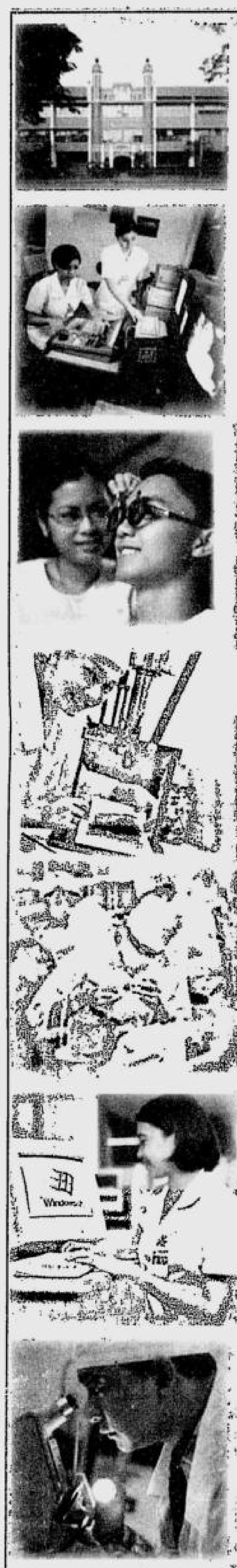

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MKTG DEPT 01

Isabela town cops fall victims to polls

ILAGAN, Isabela—The regional police director replaced the 21-member police force of San Pablo town for allegedly engaging in partisan politics.

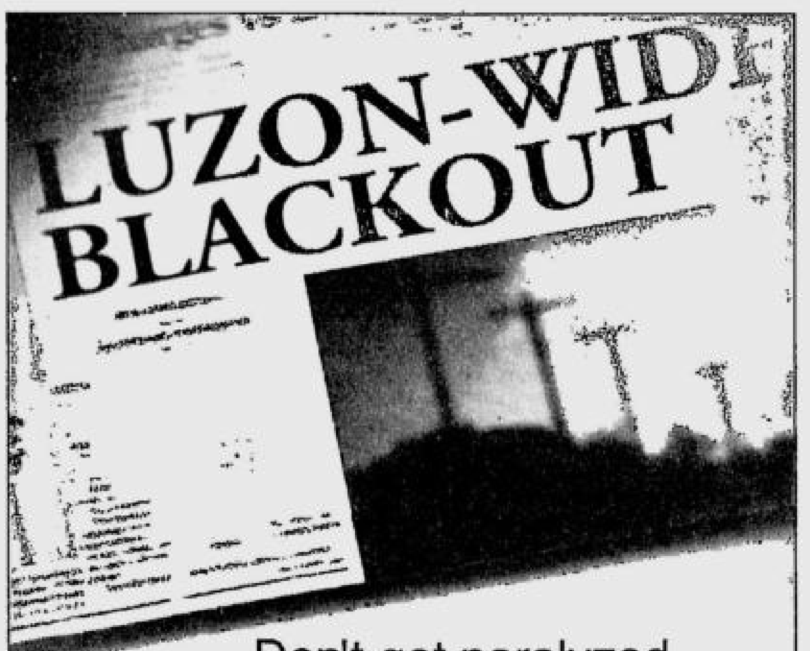
Chief Supt. Dominador Resos Jr., Cagayan Valley police director, issued the relief order after receiving reports that San Pablo policemen were allegedly favoring a mayoral candidate there.

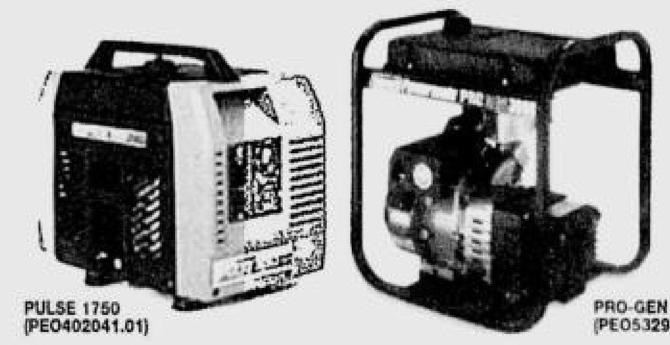
Senior Supt. James Andres Melad, Isabela police director, said two police teams composed of 14 policemen from the 1st provincial mobile group (PMG) were immediately sent to San Pablo to replace the relieved policemen.

Melad, however, said the transfer was not related to politics but was a move to prepare the police for the May 14 elections. He did not elaborate.

Reports said the San Pablo policemen were transferred to the 1st PMG in Ilagan town and to the 3rd PMG in Cauayan town.

Sources at the Commission on Elections office in the province said the transfer was not coordinated with them. They said the regional and provincial police officials could have sent a request for the transfer to the Comelec national office. *Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*





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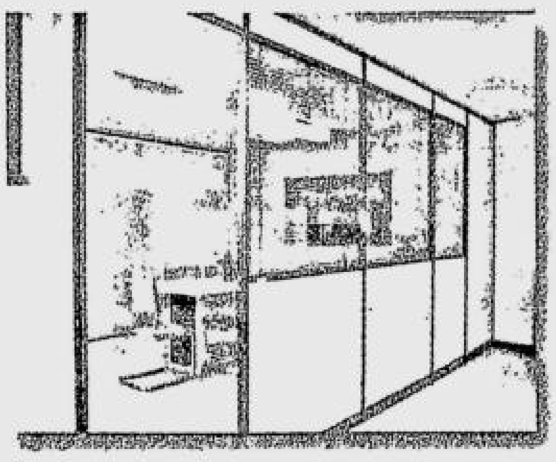
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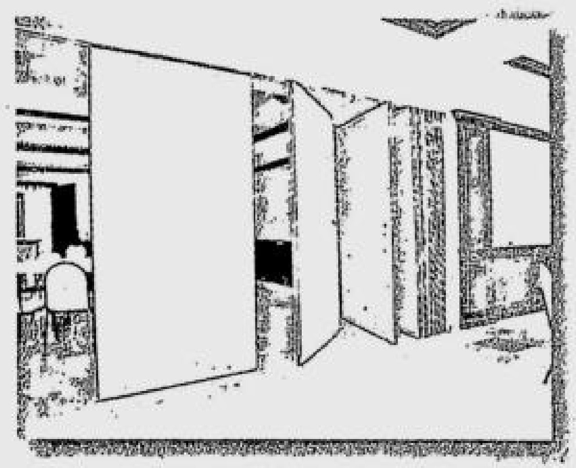
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MESSAGES

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE
FOR THE PHILIPPINES

I wish to congratulate our friends at the Universal Wisdom Foundation, Inc. for their initiative to commemorate Vesak Day in the Philippines. The UN General Assembly adopted resolution 54 / 115 on December 13, 1999, proclaiming international recognition of the Day of Vesak at UN Headquarters and other UN offices, in a move that was spearheaded by Sri Lanka together with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Chile, Cyprus, Granada, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Slovakia, Spain, Suriname, Thailand, Ukraine as well as Greece, Lesotho, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Norway, Turkey and United States of America.

By this resolution, the international community recognized that the day of the full moon in the month of May each year is the most sacred to Buddhists, signifying the birth of Buddha, his attainment of enlightenment and his passing away. It is a clear acknowledgement of the contribution that Buddhism one of the oldest religions of the world has made and continues to make to the spirituality of humanity for over two and a half thousand years.

In response to the general Assembly resolution, the Office of the President of the Philippines has issued Proclamation no. 24, declaring the full moon day of May every year as Vesak Day.

Today, therefore, we join all the Buddhist associations and institutions in the Philippines in celebrating this day, and invite everyone to be with us in the activities that have been organized at our Romulo Hall by the Universal Wisdom Foundation, Inc. of the Philippines.

Luis V. Torres
Information Officer

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manila
Manila, Philippines

I send my warm greetings and congratulations to the Universal Wisdom Foundation, Inc. in your celebration of Vesak Day. We share a common objective - to work towards a world full of love, justice and peace. And we cannot do it by ourselves. We need the help of God. We need to transcend ourselves and rely on Divine Providence.

God gives us gifts. Your accomplishments are likewise marvelous gifts from God. And He is expecting us to safeguard the gifts He gave us. Always remember that God is constantly showing His great love and concern for you. And from this love, God is calling forth a response. All of us have an important role to perform. And if you imbue your work with the love coming from God, certainly you will bear lasting fruits.

God bless our country. God bless our people. God bless our future

+Jaime Card. Sin
+JAIME L. CARDINAL SIN, D.D.
Archbishop of Manila

ISLAMIC WELFARE SOCIETY
OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC
Ilang-ilang St. Rosary Heights
Cotabato City 9600 Philippines

Peace Be with you.

We take the recognition at the United Nations and, in particular in the Philippines under Proclamation No. 24, of the Day of the Full Moon in the month of May each year in the inter-religious context of knowing people of diverse faiths.

You and the Muslim World share in common the lunar calendar days and thus the Day of Vesak is a most auspicious occasion to mark our shared tradition as well as deep spiritual consciousness.

We, at the Islamic Welfare Society of the Philippines, Inc – Al-Jamiyah Al-Khairiyah – are in solidarity with your celebration of this momentous occasion. In the spirit of the universality of Islam, we Muslims identify with Buddha's teaching of compassion, tolerance and harmony.

May this year's celebration of the day of Vesak promote closer understanding and intercultural communication among our religious communities.

Salma Lourdes Mastura

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
IN THE PHILIPPINES

We warmly convey our greetings to the Buddhists all over the world on the occasion of the Vesak Day this May. Gautama Buddha is one of the noblest examples of a self-realized human being who has inspired millions of people to seek inner peace and true compassion which are the true foundations global peace and universal brotherhood of humanity.

In its twenty five centuries of existence, Buddhism has exhibited a non dogmatic and non divisive approach to spiritual realization, recognizing that liberation may be attained through various pathways, thus helping pave the way for universal respect of all the spiritual traditions of the world, whether Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, etc. Indeed, this recognition of "Unity in Diversity" is an important key to the cessation of the senseless religious violence that has killed hundreds of thousands of people in various countries in the 20th century alone. In the same vein, the Theosophical Society signally encourages people of any faith to appreciate the spiritual core of all religions and see the essential identity of the ideals of the great religions, rather than quarrel about the less essential dissimilarities in each other's mode of workship.

The official recognition of the United Nations and the Philippine government of Vesak Day is a significant milestone for religious tolerance in the world. May this Vesak Day be commemorated by both Buddhists and non Buddhists in a spirit of universal brotherhood and the commonality of our quest for spiritual realization.

Vicente Hao Chin, Jr.
National President,
Theosophical Society in the Philippines
Immediate Past President,
Indo-Pacific Federation of the Theosophical Society

Vesak Day Celebration

Today, May 7, millions of Buddhists and non-Buddhists worldwide commemorate the VESAK DAY. This day marks the birth, enlightenment and passing away of the wise teacher, Gautama Buddha.

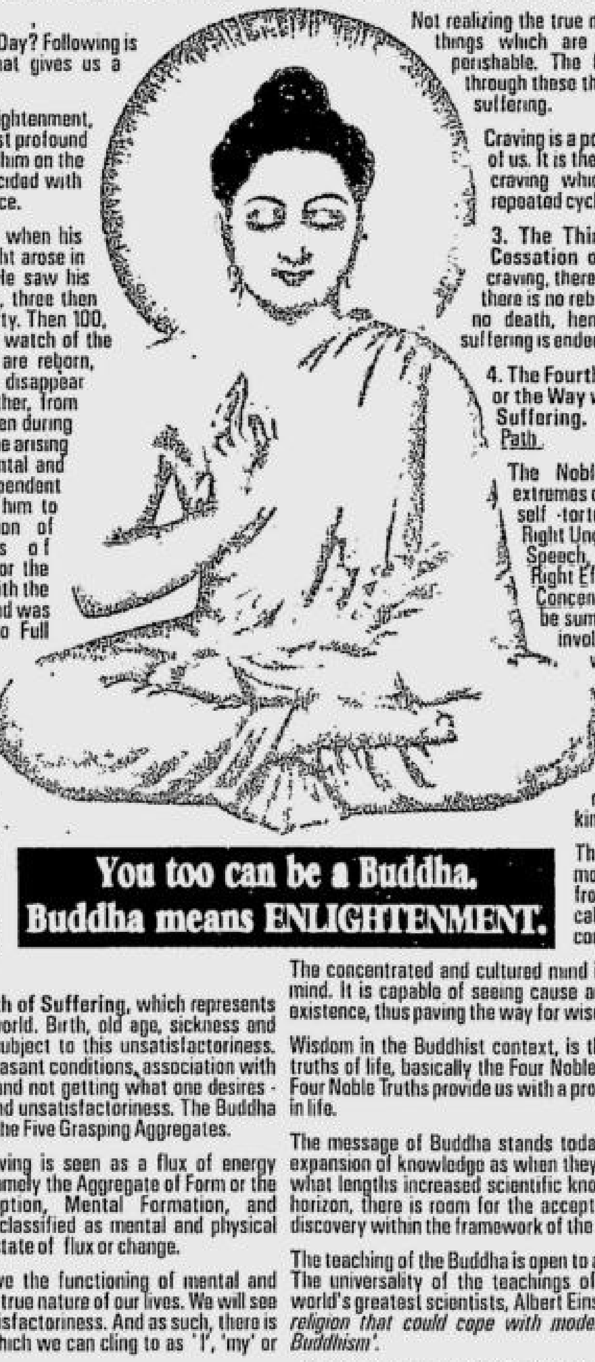
The United Nations signed a resolution calling for the commemoration of the Vesak Day on the full moon day of May of every year. Our Honorable Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN (New York) Felipe Mabilangan, Jr. was among those who adopted and signed the resolution. We are indeed proud of his open-mindedness and wisdom. In the same spirit, our government has recognized the annual commemoration of the Vesak Day in the Philippines through Presidential Proclamation No. 24.

What is the significance of the Vesak Day? Following is an article by Venerable Mahinda that gives us a glimpse of the importance of this day.

"As we recall the Buddha and His Enlightenment, we are reminded of the unique and most profound knowledge and insight which arose in him on the night of his Enlightenment. This coincided with three important events which took place.

During the first watch of the night, when his mind was calm, clear and purified, light arose in him, knowledge and insight arose. He saw his previous lives, at first one, then two, three then multiples of them... ten, twenty, to fifty. Then 100, 1000 and so on... During the second watch of the night, he saw how beings die and are reborn, depending on their Karma, how they disappear and reappear from one form to another, from one plane of existence to another. Then during the final watch of the night, he saw the arising and cessation of all phenomena, mental and physical. He saw how things arose dependent on causes and conditions. This led him to perceive the arising and cessation of suffering and all forms of unsatisfactoriness paving the way for the eradication of all taints of cravings. With the complete cessation of craving, his mind was completely liberated. He attained to Full Enlightenment.

This wisdom and light that flashed and radiated under the historic Bodhi Tree at Buddha Gaya in the district of Bihar in Northern India, more then 2500 years ago, is of great significance to human destiny. It illuminated the way by which mankind could cross, from a world of superstition, hatred and fear, to a new world of light, true love and happiness.



You too can be a Buddha.
Buddha means ENLIGHTENMENT.

The heart of the Teachings of the Buddha is contained in the teachings of the Four Noble Truths, Namely,

1.The First Noble Truth is the Truth of Suffering, which represents the Buddha's view of life and the world. Birth, old age, sickness and death are universal. All beings are subject to this unsatisfactoriness. Separation from beloved ones and pleasant conditions, association with unpleasant persons and conditions, and not getting what one desires - these are also sources of suffering and unsatisfactoriness. The Buddha summarizes this in what is known as the Five Grasping Aggregates.

Our life or the whole process of living is seen as a flux of energy comprising of the Five Aggregates, namely the Aggregate of Form or the Physical process, Feeling, Perception, Mental Formation, and Consciousness. These are usually classified as mental and physical processes, which are constantly in a state of flux or change.

When we train our minds to observe the functioning of mental and physical processes we will realize the true nature of our lives. We will see how it is subject to change and unsatisfactoriness. And as such, there is no real substance or entity or Self which we can cling to as 'I', 'my' or 'mine'.

When we become aware of the unsatisfactory nature of life, we would naturally want to get out from such a state. It is at this point that we begin to seriously question ourselves about the meaning and purpose of life. This will lead us to seek the truth with regards to the true nature of existence and the knowledge to overcome unsatisfactoriness.

Therefore, the purpose of life is to put an end to suffering and all other forms of unsatisfactoriness - to realize peace and real happiness. Such is the significance of the understanding and the realization of the First Noble Truth.

2. The Second Noble Truth explains the Origin or Cause of Suffering. Craving is the universal cause of suffering. It includes not only the desire for sensual pleasures, wealth and power, but also attachment to ideas, views, opinions, concepts, and beliefs. It is the lust for flash, the lust for continued existence (or eternalism) in the sensual realms of existence, as well as the realms of form and the formless realms. These are all different forms of selfishness, desiring things for oneself, even at the expense of others.

Not realizing the true nature of one's self, one clings to things which are impermanent, changeable and perishable. The failure to satisfy one's desires through these things; causes disappointment and suffering.

Craving is a powerful mental force present in all of us. It is the root cause of our sufferings. It is craving which binds us in Samsara the repeated cycle of birth and death.

3. The Third Noble Truth points to the Cessation of Suffering. Where there is no craving, there is no becoming, no rebirth. Where there is no rebirth, there is no decay, no old age, no death, hence no suffering. That is how suffering is ended, and once and for all.

4. The Fourth Noble Truth explains the Path or the Way which leads to the Cessation of Suffering. It is called the Noble Eightfold Path.

The Noble Eigthfold path avoids the extremes of self-indulgence on one hand and self -torture on the other. It consists of Right Understanding, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration. These path factors may be summarized into 3 stages of training, involving morality, mental cure and wisdom.

Morality or good conduct is the avoidance of evil or unwholesome actions-- actions which are tainted by greed, hatred and delusion, but motivated by liberality, loving-kindness and wisdom.

The function of good conduct or moral restraint is to free one's mind from remorse (or guilt) is naturally calm and tranquil, and ready for concentration with awareness

The concentrated and cultured mind is a contemplative and analytical mind. It is capable of seeing cause and effect, and the true nature of existence, thus paving the way for wisdom and insight.

Wisdom in the Buddhist context, is the realization of the fundamental truths of life, basically the Four Noble Truths. The understanding of the Four Noble Truths provide us with a proper sense of purpose and direction in life.

The message of Buddha stands today as unaffected by time and the expansion of knowledge as when they were first enunciated. No matter what lengths increased scientific knowledge can extend man's mental horizon, there is room for the acceptance and assimilation for further discovery within the framework of the teachings of the Buddha.

The teaching of the Buddha is open to all to see and judge for themselves. The universality of the teachings of the Buddha has led one of the world's greatest scientists, Albert Einstein to declare that '*if there is any religion that could cope with modern scientific needs, it would be Buddhism*'.

To know more about the teachings and principles of Buddhism, please visit the Universal Wisdom Foundation Library at 3/F, # 25 Gilmore Avenue corner Aurora Blvd, New Manila Quezon City. Thousands of English Buddhist books are available for complementary distribution

United Nations
Philippine National Red Cross
Universal Wisdom Foundation

What we can do at home:

1. Cleaning our altar as a symbol of cleansing our spiritual selves.
2. Lighting of a candle signifying peace, compassion, love and wisdom.
3. Being a vegetarian for the day as an act of compassion.
4. Sharing a good thought or compliment to our neighbor.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES

MAY 6, SUNDAY

Makati City
  Cultural Program on Values and Ahimsa
    Insular Life Building Auditorium, 6.30 pm to 8:30 pm
Quezon City
  White Lotus Day and Vesak Day Commemoration
    Theosophical Society of the Philippines, 4.00 pm
    # 1 Iba Street, Quezon City
  Blood Donation, Buddha Bathing, Complimentary Books
    Philippine Lotus Charity, 8.30 am - 12:00 nn
    150 N. Domingo St., Cubao, Quezon City
Manila City
  Buddha Bathing/Blood Donations/Complimentary Books
    Philippine Buddhist Foundation, Inc., 9:00 am to 12:00 nn
    1176 Narra Street, Tondo, Manila

MAY 7, MONDAY

Makati City
  Blood Donation, Buddha Bathing, Complimentary Books and CD's, Film Showing ("The Little Buddha" and "A Journey to Enlightenment")
    United Nations Office, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
    Romulo Hall, NEDA sa Makati Bldg.,
    106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati
  Lantern Festival
    Embassy of the Republic of Sri Lanka, 7:00 pm to10:00 pm
    2260 Avocado Avenue, Dasmariñas Village, Makati City
Manila City
  Blood Donation, Buddha Bathing, Complimentary Books and CD's,
    Orosa Atrium, Level I, Robinsons Place Manila,
    10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Pasig City
  Blood Donation, Buddha Bathing, Complimentary Books and CD's,
    Park Avenue, Robinsons Galleria, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

MAY 19-20, 2001, SATURDAY TO SUNDAY

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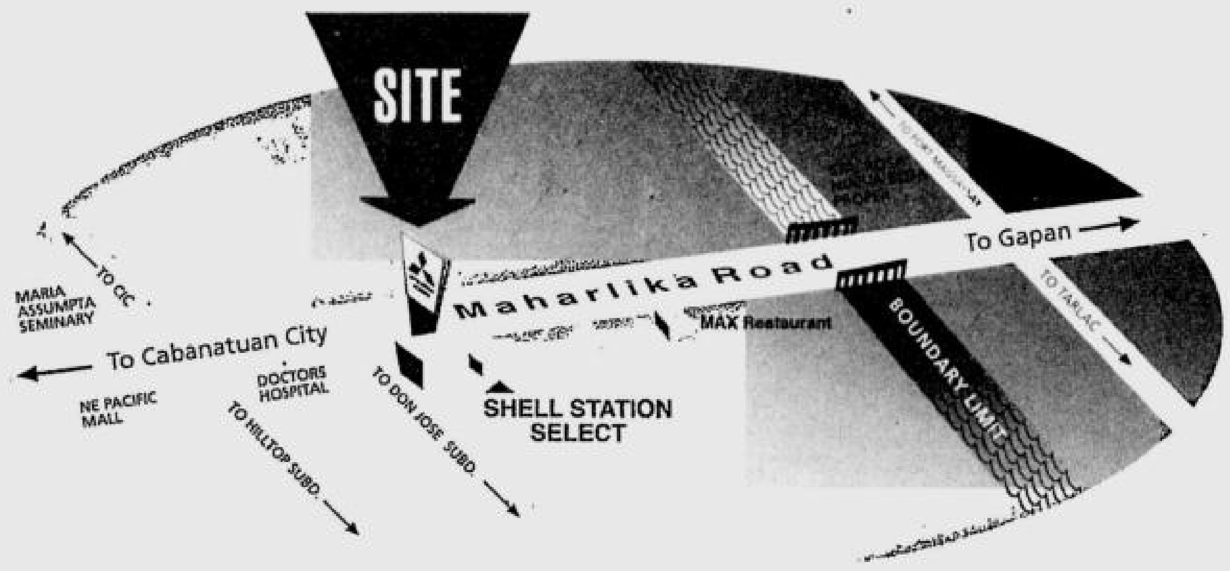

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Comelec stops bet from running

TACLOBAN CITY—The Commission on Elections has disqualified Carlos Romualdez, son of Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, from running for a congressional seat in Leyte for lack of residency.

The Comelec second division chaired by Commissioner Rufino Javier ruled on May 3 that Romualdez, 42, was not qualified to run in Leyte's second congressional district because he failed to comply with the required one year residency immediately before the elections.

The Comelec also ordered the name of Romualdez stricken out of the list of registered voters of Burauen, the town in the district claimed by Romualdez as his residence.

This was the second blow to Romualdez's candidacy. On April 30, the Burauen Municipal Trial Court also ordered the name of Romualdez removed from the town's list of voters because he was not a bona fide resident of the municipality.

Romualdez, who is running under the Nationalist People's Coalition, is the eldest son of reelectionist Mayor Romualdez and brother of Rep. Alfred Romualdez, also a reelectionist in the first district of Leyte.

Mayor Romualdez is the brother of former first lady Imelda Marcos.

Carlos is running against Leyte Vice Gov. Trinidad Apostol (Lakas-NUCD), wife of outgoing Rep. Sergio Apostol, and independent Nora Petines.

Carlos will contest the Comelec ruling, according to lawyer Romulo Tiu, Carlos' legal counsel, since the decision is not executory and subject to appeal.

The Comelec second division ruled that Carlos, could not claim to have established residency in Burauen by virtue of a 5-year contract of lease that he had entered with Burauen Mayor Juanito Renomeron, for the lease of the Renomeron's house in the town.

It said that in election cases, the term "residence" is synonymous with "domicile" which, it said, shows not only the intention to reside in a fixed place but also the physical presence of the person in the area.

"Clearly therefore the lease contract presented by (Carlos) does not establish that he had already abandoned his domicile in Quezon City and neither does it mean that he is now a resident of Burauen, Leyte where the leased property is located," the ruling said. *Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Firearms cache seized

CEBU CITY—Policemen here seized on Wednesday a cache of firearms from a motorboat docked at a wharf in Bogo town, 61.6 kilometers north of this city.

Supt. Antonio Salvacion, Cebu provincial police director, said the 61 handguns placed inside two boxes were found inside the MV Macquing, a passenger motorboat that plies the Bogo-Masbate route.

Found inside the boxes were three Ingram machine pistols, three .357 magnum revolvers, nine .38 snub-nose revolvers and 48 .38 caliber revolvers.

A team from the Bogo police checked the motorboat after receiving a tip from a concerned resident that two boxes of firearms were stashed in one of the two boats docked at the Bogo Wharf.

Salvacion said they were still trying to determine who owned the guns, where these came from and if the firearms were intended to be used during the elections. *Connie Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Illiterate Aetas to vote with help of 'assistors'

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAPAS, Tarlac—Ever heard of "assistors?"

They are Aetas in Tarlac who are able to read and write, skills that are vital in a tribe where an estimated 70 percent of some 25,000 voters are illiterate.

Last week, elders and leaders of the Federation of Tribal Councils scattered in some 40 villages around Mt. Pinatubo in Tarlac designated the assistors for the May 14 elections. They are expected to accurately write the names of national and local candidates whom tribe members favor.

The assistors were also chosen based on the respect and trust they command among the villagers, Nelson Pangilinan, chair of the federation, told the INQUIRER on Friday in Sta. Juliana, some 35 kilometers west of Capas town.

They may also be lowlanders, like Nora Cosme of Isabela, who married into the big Cosme clan of Tarlac in 1997.

"The assistors will help us ensure that the Aetas will not be deceived in the elections," Pangilinan said in Kapampangan.

Cosme, who also assists the tribe in marketing their forest products, said she would not allow the Aetas to be duped nor would she accept bribe from politicians.

According to Pangilinan, local politicians originally developed the "assistor system."

The Commission on Elections had not been designating teachers to help the Aetas cast their votes, according to Ma. Dolores Concepcion, district coordinator of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports' non-formal education program in Capas.

For almost three decades, Concepcion and Pangilinan said politicians had been fielding their own supporters, usually lowlanders, to write on behalf of the Aetas.

But instead of writing the choices of the Aetas, Pangilinan said the supporters unilaterally inscribed on the ballots the names of the candidates they backed.

During elections, politicians and their supporters who did not usually campaign in mountainous villages approached the Aetas who milled around the precincts, convincing them to write the names of their candidates, Concepcion, a half-Aeta, said.

They usually gave out sample ballots that the Aetas in turn handed over to the assistors of a political camp, she said.

Wanting an end to this form of duplicity, Pangilinan said the elders and tribal leaders decided to designate assistors from within the tribe.

The practice, he recalled, began during the 1998 elections.

Thumb marks

Concepcion said the Aetas affirmed their votes by putting their thumb marks on the ballots. But even the new system was time-consuming, according to Concepcion.

The voting period, which ended at 4 p.m., was usually extended by two hours, she said.

Pangilinan said the assistors would be most needed in Barangays Sta. Juliana, Bueno and Maruglo where the literacy rates are very low.

These villages are located within the 15-kilometer radius of Mt. Pinatubo.

In Pampanga and Zambales, many Aetas are able to read and write due to the basic literacy courses offered by government, non-government organizations and missionary groups after Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991.

Pangilinan said the voters among Aetas have shown more independence in their choices and in the way they cast their votes.

'Bean system'

During the years when the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos reigned, Aetas used to vote by putting beans in front of the photographs of candidates, Pangilinan said.

The old system had been replaced after Pinatubo's eruptions when the Aetas, confined to upland government-managed resettlement sites, had increased their contacts with the lowlanders.

Until after World War II, historians noted that the Aetas had lived at the upper flanks of Mt. Pinatubo, hardly assimilated in mainstream Filipino society.

Mt. Pinatubo, according to historians, hosts one of the biggest populations of the country's Negrito tribe to whom the Aetas belonged.

Politicians wooed votes from the tribe by providing free transportation and food.

Three days before elections, politicians sent trucks to far-flung villages to fetch the Aetas. Dumped in polling precincts, they were fed until election day, Pangilinan said, noting this as a problem.

Unless fetched, the Aetas shunned elections, preferring to spend the day tending to their *gasak* (mountain farms) or gathering forest products, he added.

Barangay Tarukan, for example, is 10 kilometers away from Sta. Julinna where the polling precincts are located.

Jose Cosme, Tarukan tribal chieftain, said he would prefer that the Aetas not participate in the elections because "anyway, we don't feel that the government is helping us."

However, the Aetas do not necessarily vote for those who fetch and feed them, Pangilinan said.

The elders and leaders of the tribal councils choose the candidates after they hold caucuses some days before elections.

Chemicals for shabu seized

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Police confiscated P3.2-million worth of chemicals used in the manufacture of shabu in a buy-bust operation in Barangay Zinundungan in Sta. Ana, Cagayan this week.

Senior Supt. Ricardo Padilla, Cagayan police director, said the police recovered 2.6 kilograms of amphetamine, a chemical used in manufacturing shabu and worth P3.2 million, from suspected drug couriers Absalon Tobias, Lito Dalo and Arman Soriano.

Tobias was immediately arrested while Dalo and Soriano, both fishermen, were arrested in follow-up operations in Barangay Baua in Gonzaga town.

Police recovered a handgun and a grenade from the group, said to be involved in illegal drug pushing in the coastal towns of Aparri, Gonzaga and Sta. Ana.

Padilla said the recovered chemicals, which he said came from China, could be part of a 100-kilogram chemical shipment that the suspects had planned to sell.

He said the chemicals could also be remnants of the 28 kilograms of shabu and chemicals seized by policemen during a raid in a suspected shabu laboratory in Camiguin Island, also in Cagayan, two years ago.

Police said the suspects admitted that the recovered chemicals came from Camiguin Island.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MANILA BANKERS LIFE
INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

Notice is hereby given to stockholders of **MANILA BANKERS LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION** that the annual meeting of stockholders will be held on May 22, 2001 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at its principal office at 10F TMBC Building 6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, to transact such business as may be properly brought before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The close of business on May 7, 2001 has been fixed as the record date for determining stockholders entitled to vote at this meeting or any adjournment thereof.

May 3, 2001, Makati City.

CLARENCE D. GUERRERO
Corporate Secretary

GLUTAPHOS,
The Brain Vitamin,
Salutes the
New Lawyers

THE BAR TOPNOTCHERS

1.	Eliseo M. Zuñiga, Jr.	UP
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3.	Jean G. Pantaleon - Pallorina	Ateneo de Manila
4.	Rogelio G. Largo	Ateneo de Davao
5.	Joan D. Adaci	UP
6.	Michael Felipe A. Mercado	San Beda
7.	Valerie C. Feria Princess Lou D. Managuelod	UP UP
8.	Prudence Angelita A. Kasala	UST
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

In five days, the Titans shall clash once more.

GMA

State of rebellion lifted

(From page A1)

have ordered their arrest. Many of those who attacked the Palace are now in jail."

She said the alleged leaders of the plot were now washing their hands of involvement. "The others are hiding in fear," she said.

At least 11 opposition leaders linked to the protests have been ordered arrested. Four people, including opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and former Ambassador to the United States Ernesto Maceda, were taken into custody hours after the rioting was quelled.

Various groups, many of which joined Edsa People Power II that toppled Estrada and swept Ms Macapagal to the presidency, supported the crackdown on the suspected plotters.

But the groups, including the diplomatic community, voiced concern over her declaration of a state of rebellion—-just two constitutional steps before martial law.

Two opposition parties have also asked the Supreme Court to nullify the "state of rebellion," saying the government is only using it to gain advantage in the May 14 local and congressional elections.

In her statement, however, Ms Macapagal defended her decision to declare a state of rebellion, saying it was a legal weapon she needed to use to defend the republic and democracy.

Ms Macapagal said no violations of human rights were committed by the government troops during the period.

"This is a triumph of democracy," she said.

The declaration allowed her to use the military to halt protests and authorize the police to make arrests without warrants.

"I will do everything to restore peace in the streets, in the communities, in the cities and farms around our country," she said.

In her statement, Ms Macapagal said she had reached out to the opposition in recent days, visiting Estrada in jail and some of the arrested rioters.

Roots of rebellion

She, however, said the roots of the rebellion could only be stamped out "by eradicating poverty, creating a strong middle class, and building a society where most of the people have jobs, businesses and income."

Ms Macapagal asked the people to support the government and give her time to pursue development, ease widespread poverty and tame the communist and Moro rebellions that have plagued the country for decades.

"I have served as your President for only 100 days. Give me time," Ms Macapagal said.

Natural Resources and Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said that last week's political unrest had wiped out the business confidence established by Ms Macapagal during her 100 days in power. "We're back to where we started. We have to work at it again."

Troop pullout

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said government troops had begun reducing their presence in the capital after the coup was quelled.

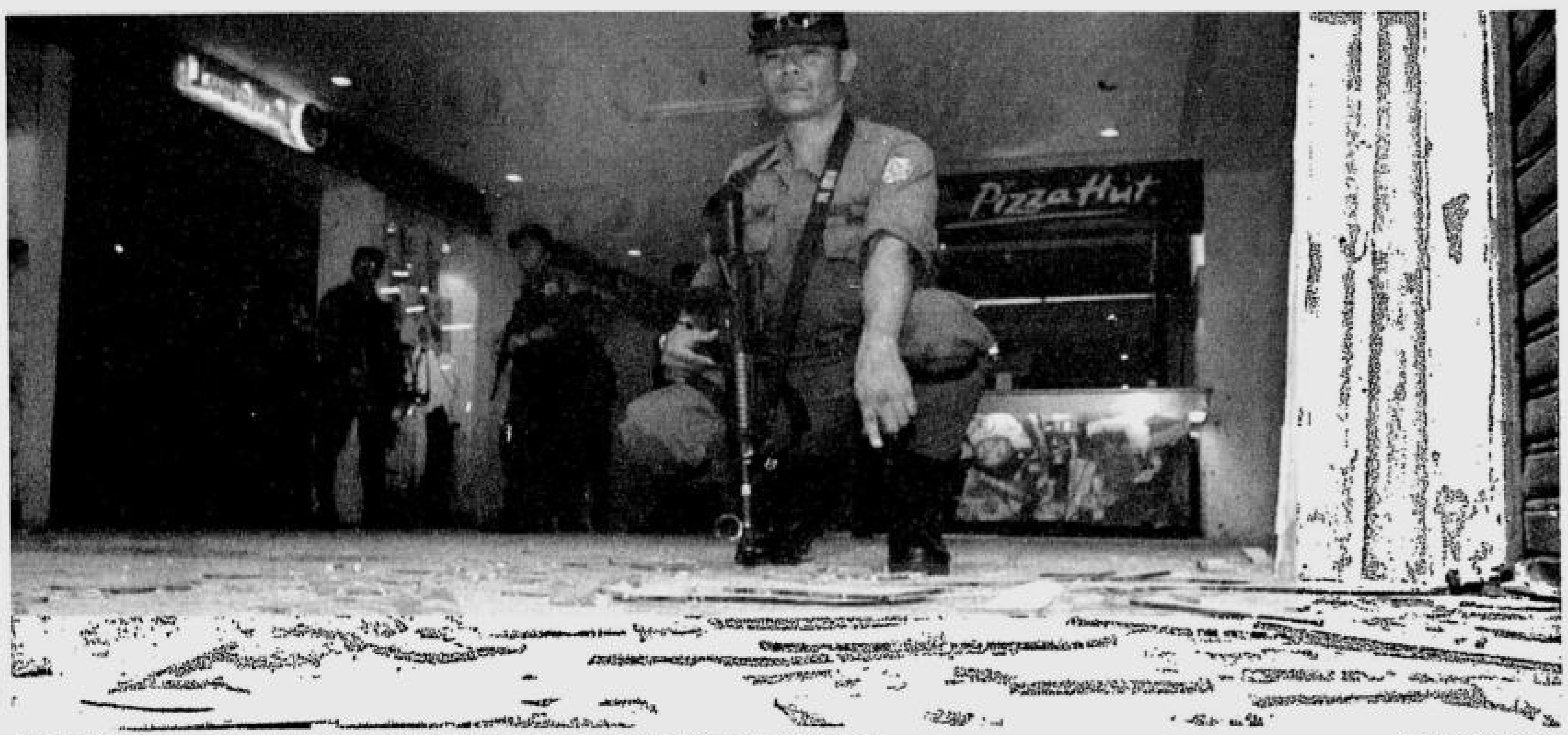
"We're reducing our troops in metropolitan Manila to lessen the tension but they would just be within reach, within striking distance for any contingency," Villanueva said.

He said the country was stable following the failed coup and it would be hard to attempt another power grab soon.

"There is nothing to be worried about. If people are on the run, they cannot organize a coup," Villanueva said. Government troops, however, are on alert for possible bombings and other similar attacks, he said.

He said special military contingents would remain at the Palace. Many troops deployed outside Malacañang have been withdrawn, but many remained inside and access roads were still blockaded.

More than 3,000 soldiers, backed by tanks and helicopters, were deployed to secure the Palace, military camps and television stations after the bloody riot. *With reports from AP and Reuters*



A MEMBER of the SWAT team points to the spot where the grenade exploded. DENNIS SABANGAN

'Martilyo Gang' strikes in QC

(From page A1)

President Macapagal-Arroyo was about to address the nation on TV.

Ms Macapagal had declared the state of rebellion in the wake of last Tuesday's attempt by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada to topple her administration.

Observers noted that the two robberies occurred at critical times for the government.

During the April 28 robbery, thousands of pro-Estrada demonstrators were massed at the Edsa Shrine reportedly ready to march on Malacañang.

Later reports said the march was postponed after opposition political figures had disagreed on the assault. The attack pushed through two days later, on Tuesday, May 1.

Yesterday's incident occurred just as Ms Macapagal was set to announce the lifting of the state of rebellion she had declared after the Estrada supporters had mounted a fierce attack on the presidential residence.

In these incidents, as in others in the past, suspicion fell on opposition figures closely associated with the police or the military as being behind the robberies, either as diversionary tactics or to raise much needed funds.

Earlier, AFP reported that a bomb scare swept through Metro Manila on the eve of the lifting of the state of rebellion, with police assuring the public that security was tight.

Calls inquiring about rumors that malls and public transport systems would be bombed flooded police stations in Makati, according to Senior Supt. Joey Gutierrez.

Text messages about "destabilization plots from reliable sources" also circulated through cellular phones, Gutierrez said.

"I want to call on those who are sending these text messages to stop, because the people are getting scared and calling police stations," Gutierrez said over radio station dzBB.

"There is no truth to these rumors, the police are ready to quell any untoward incident and we have enough police backed up by the Army to protect the citizenry," he said.

Gutierrez said private security guards employed by business establishments in the Makati financial center have been given special training in bomb identification, while police were in place at strategic areas in the city. *With a report from AFP*

Gringo offer on sharing of power denounced

(From page A1)

Golez said Honasan told the official "his group and our group should work together."

"We take that to mean that either he was offering to enter into a power-sharing agreement or that they simply wanted to stop the outbreak of violence," the national security adviser said.

Golez revealed Honasan's proposal to support the allegation of the Department of Justice that Estrada's allies had planned to kill Ms Macapagal and Estrada so that a military junta could be formed.

"It looked like they were only using Erap to build up the crowd at Edsa," he said.

But Golez said Honasan did not pursue the proposal in earnest.

Another Cabinet official, who asked not to be named, confirmed the offer from Honasan.

The Cabinet official said Honasan's proposal was crafted in such a way that Estrada would not be returned to power.

"Later, we said, 'We'll see,'" he said of his reply to Honasan's offer.

Honasan called again, but this time he apologized for making the call without the approval of his group.

"I'm sorry. I had to call you. But I have no authority," he quoted Honasan as saying.

The senator said, "I cannot talk. I need to get the approval of the head of the council."

"When we asked him who was the head of the council, he said, 'Enrile,'" the Cabinet official said.

Witnesses against Honasan, Lacson

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday that witnesses would come out to testify against Honasan and senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson.

Like Honasan, Lacson is a fugitive from justice.

In a radio interview, Honasan said he was being "secured" by active junior military and police officers belonging to the right-wing Young Officers Union.

A member of the group hunting down Honasan and Lacson disclosed that the group was calling off the search after the Supreme Court allowed Enrile to post bail.

"We expect them to come out anytime and simply post bail or they might just ask their lawyers to post bail for them. So there is need at this point to hunt them down," the source told the INQUIRER.

But the source said they were building up the cases against the alleged coup plotters. They are zeroing on the reported participation of some businessmen who contributed millions of pesos to the failed coup.

Mark Jimenez a fund-raiser

The source disclosed that they had received information about the involvement of businessman Mark Jimenez in soliciting contributions amounting to hundreds of millions of pesos from businessmen to finance a coup.

One of the senatorial candidates declared a fugitive from justice allegedly served as a conduit to Jimenez.

The senatorial candidate is reportedly a business partner of Jimenez in one of the several food chains that they established after Estrada assumed the presidency in 1998.

The source said Jimenez wanted to buy influence from the group that sought to topple the administration.

An intelligence report said Jimenez allegedly was able to raise close to P1 billion, a big part of which was used to fund the siege of Malacañang.

The report said the bulk of the money went to paying off more than 100,000 who took part in the so-called Edsa III.

Each protester reportedly got P500 while about 1,000 organizers, recruiters and marshals were promised P5,000 each.

The rest of the money went to food for the five-day rally at Edsa and the siege of Malacañang.

Not a setback

Perez said the Supreme Court decision allowing Enrile provisional liberty would not set back efforts of government prosecutors to convict him of rebellion.

Although the high court dismissed the evidence presented by prosecutors against Enrile as "hearsay," Perez disclosed that new witnesses, who can pin down the senator, approached the justice department when the tribunal held oral arguments on Enrile's petition for habeas corpus on Thursday.

"The Supreme Court's decision is not going to be a drawback because we have enough evidence to convict Enrile," Perez said in a telephone interview.

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Attack on Palace a new kind of coup d'etat

(From page A1)

the seeding fields of poverty and used as human-wave assault troops to attack and topple a sitting government.

The attack was truly a revolution of the poor, but not for the poor. It was driven by a rich cabal which hijacked the demand of the poor to restore the ousted president Estrada to power. Unlike People Power I and II, which were essentially middle class upheavals, the rebellion at Mendiola was the real "revolt of the masses."

The poor were mobilized and inflamed by a rich counter-elite on issues that have absolutely nothing to do with making the poor less poor. There was nothing in the fiery rhetoric of the politicians inflaming the ralliers at Edsa to march to Malacañang to give a hint of what was in store for the poor after Estrada was restored or after they had seized power.

What was revealed after the din of battle is that we have a smoldering reservoir of unrest that can be inflamed by demagogues into suicidal assaults at the centers of state power. This reservoir of grievances can be ignited anytime, and this is the social volcano on whose edge the Macapagal administration and the Filipino people are sitting.

We will be deluding ourselves if we dismiss the May 1 revolt of the poor as a mere "state of hysteria" or "lawless violence," as some lawyers would trivialize the seminal event.

The TV videotapes and the evidence that have emerged after the revolt are more than sufficient to tell the public that the storming of Malacañang was not a "spontaneous, unplanned and unorganized" mobilization. The oratory at Edsa went beyond the "hyperbole" of election "*miting de avance*" rallies.

Incendiary

One needs only listen to the incendiary speeches of Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Gregorio Honasan and J.V. Ejercito, inciting the masses to storm the Palace, to be convinced that their purpose was not just to enhance the opposition's election chances in May.

The mobs that they incited were not thinking of the May elections. They were lusting for blood and violence.

What do the TV videotapes reveal? They reveal that the march was organized. The mob marched in columns under tactical direction by unseen hands. They had dump trucks that rammed the police's lines of defense. They had crude attack weapons—molotov cocktails, tear gas bombs, knives, rocks and arrows.

They attacked Mendiola in waves, reaching up to Malacañang's Gate 7 in J. P. Laurel Street. The footage reveals Enrile, J.V. Ejercito and Jude Estrada leading the march from Edsa, only to disappear at some point.

There are photos of the ralliers counting money at Edsa. A senator was photographed distributing money to hired groups collecting their rent after the attack had been crushed. Reporters who covered the rally saw the marchers being directed by marshals. There were people using cell phones. If we believe they were merely texting for the fun of it, we need to examine our heads. At the beginning of the march, women were used as shields in front of the columns, to be replaced by shirtless young men after the police barricades were smashed.

Authorities have identified the hotel rooms and suites in which Enrile, Honasan, Jamby Madrigal, Panfilo Lacson, Maceda and Eddie Manalo, the son of INC head Bishop Eraño Manalo, met during three days of the rallies. They know the hotels used, the time they met, the false names used in booking the suites.

Zero hour

The zero hour of the original plan for the march was past midnight of Monday, April 30. The crowd was estimated at its largest on Sunday evening, numbering more than 300,000. According to our sources, the tactical plans for armed support were laid out in detail with military precision.

The crowd, sufficiently inflamed after five evenings of incendiary rhetoric, was ready to move. After the meeting at the Galeria Suites, the bodyguards of the leaders went down to their cars with guns cocked for action. But the plan was aborted, partly because of a dispute over money and over whether to march to the Palace.

It was postponed for the following day. The postponement disrupted the plan in which between 500 and 1,000 armed men had been organized to join the storming of the Palace after the crowd had breached the Palace gates.

The following day, the details that had been unstuck could not be reassembled again. Coordination was lost. The crowd was thinner, the INC legions had pulled out and the government had been able to buy time to prepare for the attack. But the plotters also thought that if the attack was delayed any further, the rallies would lose momentum. Tuesday was their last chance.

Two points

The plan for May 1 was to march to two points—one column was to march to Malacañang and the other to the Veterans Memorial Hospital where Estrada was. The idea was to seize the hospital, establish an alternative government and use Estrada as a rallying point for a general uprising. The plan was thwarted when the government hastily flew the jailed ex-President to the detention center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

When the marchers learned of the transfer, the Veteran Memorial column veered to join the main column marching to Malacañang.

Because of the dislocation of the original plan, it was not certain whether the armed component would show up. The plotters also seemed to have realized that their efforts to seek support from military units had failed.

The military chain of command had solidly stood behind the government.

Faced with these prospects, the plotters decided on the human-wave attack approach. The concept was that the Edsa horde would assault the Palace in waves until they were able to crash the gates. This would confront the Palace defenders with the dilemma of either shooting at the mob or holding their fire.

If the rioters had been massacred, the carnage would have sparked a wider uprising by the poor, outraged reaction by human rights activists, and a cleavage in the military. It was a calculated risk. It was a cynical plan.

The state's defense forces, however, did not play into this suicidal game. Some saw the policy of "megatolerance" as a weakness. But the restraint of the military and the police avoided a mass conflagration.

The ringleaders and agitators are now washing their hands of responsibility for what happened on May 1. If the power grab had succeeded, we would have invented a new kind of coup d'etat, one that is spearheaded by the poor but that also feeds them into the furnace of revolution.

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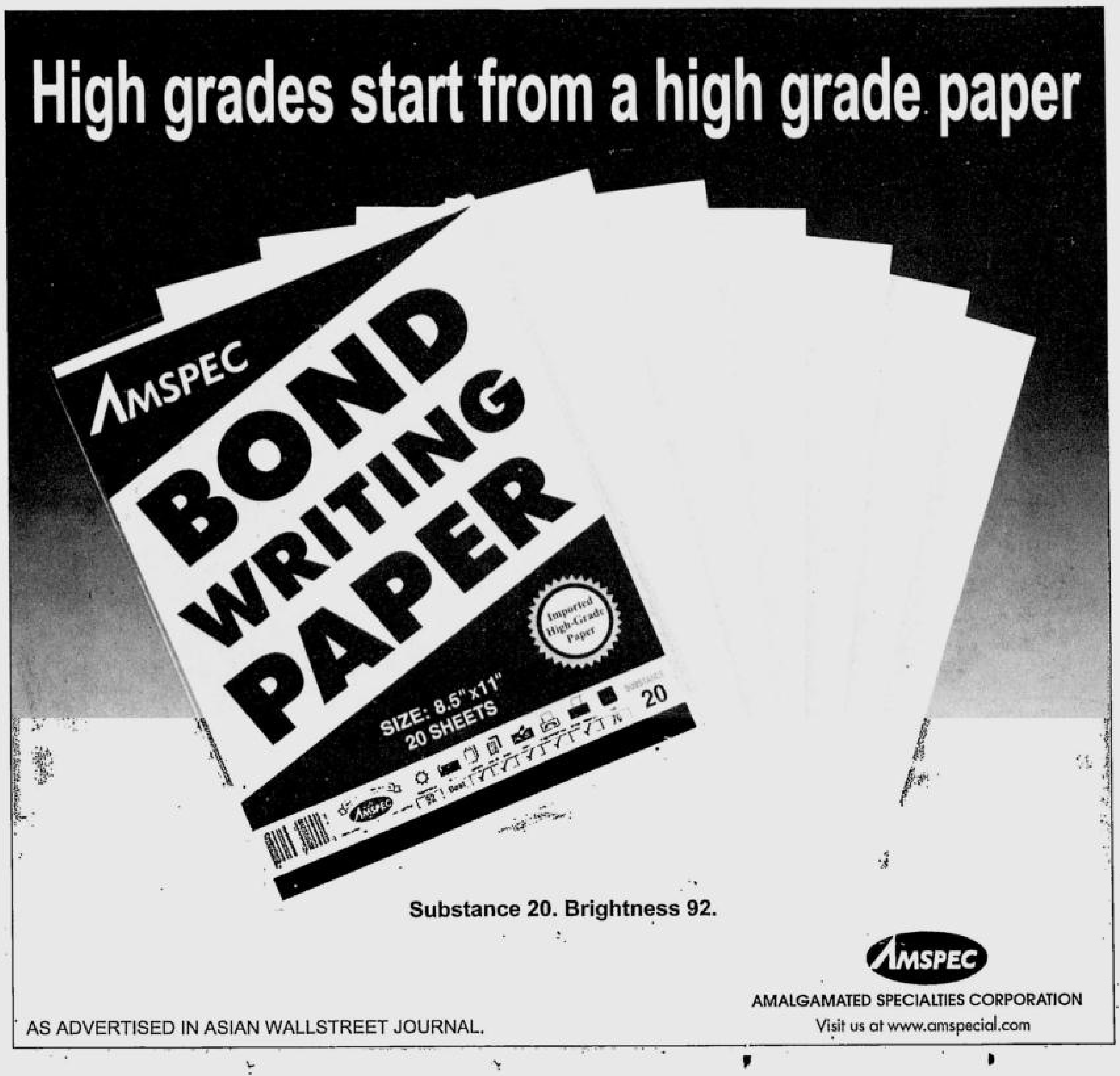
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Spurs rout Mavs in series Game 1

SAN ANTONIO—The Battle of Texas got off to a bruising start.

Tim Duncan had 31 points and 13 rebounds, and the San Antonio Spurs overcame the loss of Derek Anderson to beat Dallas, 94-78, on Saturday night in the Western Conference semifinal opener.

Dallas' Juwan Howard was ejected late in the first half for a flagrant foul on Anderson, who separated his right shoulder and could miss the rest of the playoffs.

As Anderson went up for a dunk, Howard swung his arm into Anderson's side, just below the armpit. Anderson landed on his shoulder and hobbled off the court grimacing and cradling his arm.

Duncan scored 20 points in the first half to help the Spurs take a 47-34 lead. In the last three minutes of the half, Duncan made two lay-ups, a tip-in, and two free throws.

The Mavs were 4-of-19 from the field in the first quarter as San Antonio took a 16-11 lead. Dirk Nowitzki was 0-for-5 and Steve Nash 0-for-4 in the first half.

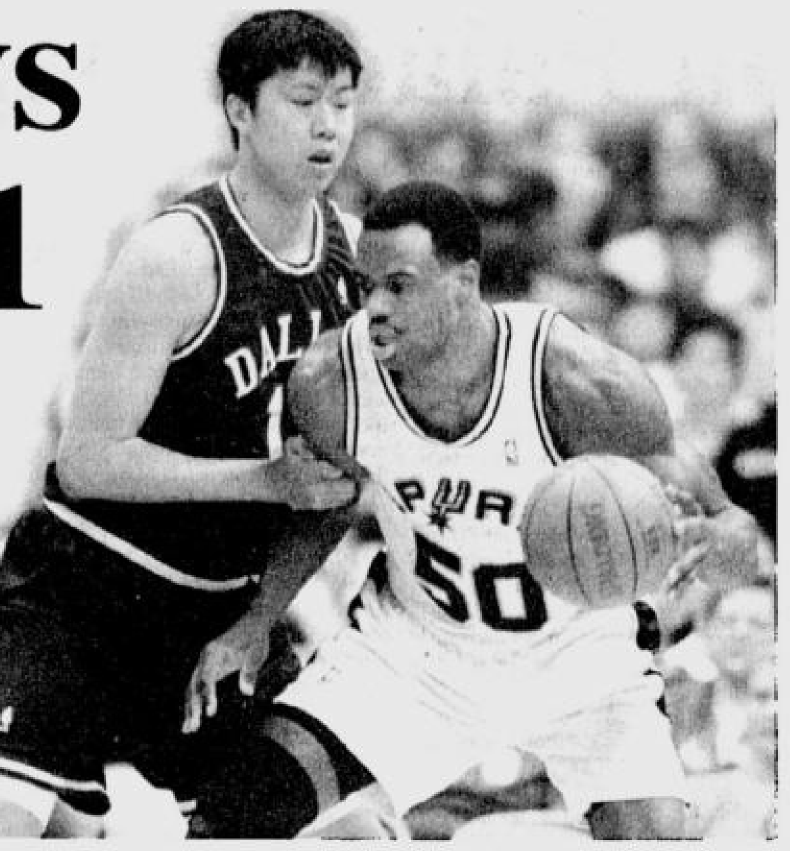
Duncan sparked a 14-2 run in the third quarter to give the Spurs a 68-46 lead. During the run, the Mavs' Calvin Booth picked up his fifth foul, while Nowitzki got his fourth.

San Antonio brought it to 76-51 on Steve Kerr's long jumper with less than five seconds left in the quarter.

Mutombo takes Kennedy award

NEW YORK—Dikembe Mutombo, the Philadelphia 76ers center who has donated millions of dollars in hopes of building a hospital in his native Congo, won the NBA's J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award on Saturday.

Mutombo has created a foundation in his name to assist humanitarian work in his homeland. He is trying to build a 300-bed hospital in the capital of Kinshasa. Mutombo has donated $3 million to start construction of the $44 million facility and given $250,000 in medical supplies and 40 beds to existing hospitals.



DALLAS' Wang Zhizhi defends against San Antonio's David Robinson during Game 1 of their Western Conference semifinals. The Spurs won, 94-78. REUTERS

SEMIS SKED

(Best-of-7) Manila Time
EASTERN CONFERENCE
(1) PHILADELPHIA vs. (5) TORONTO
Game 1: May 7, at P'phia (5:30 a.m.)
Game 2: May 10, at Philadelphia (TBD)
Game 3: May 12, at Toronto (8 a.m.)
Game 4: May 14, at Toronto (3 a.m.)
*Game 5: May 17, at Philadelphia (TBD)
*Game 6: May 19, at Toronto (TBD)
*Game 7: May 21, at Philadelphia (TBD)
(2) MILWAUKEE vs. (6) CHARLOTTE
Game 1: May 7, at Mil'kee (12:40 a.m.)
Game 2: May 9, at Milwaukee (8 a.m.)
Game 3: May 12, at Charlotte (8 a.m.)
Game 4: May 14, at Charlotte (12:30 a.m.)
*Game 5: May 16, at Milwaukee (TBD)
*Game 6: May 18, at Charlotte (TBD)
*Game 7: May 21, at Milwaukee (TBD)
WESTERN CONFERENCE
(1) SAN ANTONIO vs. (5) DALLAS
Game 1: May 6, at San Antonio (6:30 a.m.)
Game 2: May 8, at San Antonio (8 a.m.)
Game 3: May 10, at Dallas (9:30 a.m.)
Game 4: May 13, at Dallas (3:30 a.m.)
*Game 5: May 15, at San Antonio (8 a.m.)
*Game 6: May 17, at Dallas (TBD)
*Game 7: May 20, at San Antonio (TBD)
(2) L.A. LAKERS vs. (3) SACRAMENTO
Game 1: May 7, at L.A. Lakers (3 a.m.)
Game 2: at L.A. Lakers (10:30 a.m.)
Game 3: May 12, at Sacramento (10:30 a.m.)
Game 4: May 14, at Sacramento (5:30 a.m.)
*Game 5: May 16, at L.A. Lakers (TBD)
*Game 6: May 18, at Sacramento (TBD)
*Game 7: May 20, at L.A. Lakers (TBD)
(* if necessary)

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: This Week in the NBA at 11:30 a.m. on CNN
ABC Seaba Cup 2001, Semifinal #1 at 1:30 p.m., Semifinal #2 at 3 p.m. on Star Sports
NBA Conference Semifinals, Milwaukee vs Charlotte, Game 1 at 12 noon on RPN 9 (r- 5:30 p.m. on IBC 13), Toronto vs Philadelphia, Game 1 at 8 p.m. (r) on ESPN
GOLF: PGA Compaq Classic of New Orleans, First Round at 8 a.m. (r),
Final Round at 10 p.m. on Star Sports
Golfglobe 2001 at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Playoff plot thickens

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

EIGHT down, eight up. The NBA playoff plot thickens.

With the completion of the eight best-of-five, first-round series, only eight teams are left to contest this year's NBA championship.

Significantly, there were three off-chart results in initial-round play and when the smoke of battle cleared, the East's Miami Heat and New York Knicks and the West's Utah Jazz-legit title contenders all-found themselves biting the dust.

Sixth-seeded Charlotte, one of only two teams to score a first-round 3-0 sweep (the other being the reigning NBA titlist LA Lakers against squabble-ridden Portland out West,whitewashed the third-seeded Heat. Hornets forward Jamal Mashburn tormented his ex-teammates with a 23.7-point average and registered an NBA three-game playoff series record by going an unblemished 25-for-25 from the free-throw line.

Fourth-seeded New York blew a 2-1 lead and was beaten by fifth-seeded Toronto in a maximum five games as Raptors star Vince Carter silenced his critics and proved he was a pressure player by leading his club to its first-ever postseason series win with a combined 59 points (including a playoff career-high 32) in the twin Games Four and Five successes and an overall 22.8-point norm.

Dallas, the No. 5 seed in the West, advanced to the second round for the first time since 1988 (when the team reached the conference finals or third round) when it upset No. 4 seed Utah in a physical five-game series. Behind All-Star guard Michael Finley and German hotshot forward Dirk Nowitzki, both of whom averaged 23.8 points per game, the Mavericks became only the sixth team in NBA history to overcome an 0-2 deficit and capture a best-of-five playoff series. For the Jazz, who reached the NBA Finals in 1997 and 1998, it marked the second time they've choked a best-of-five duel after taking a 2-0 lead, having capitulated to Golden state in the same manner in 1987.

Sherwood hosts Jungolf Open

NEWLY CROWNED Asian juniors champion Judson Eustaquio heads the entries for the first Sherwood Hills Jungolf Open, the seventh leg of the Jungolf Summer Circuit, starting today in Trece Martires, Cavite.

The 12-year-old Eustaquio won his second Asian title in four years after topping Class C by a runaway seven strokes in Sarawak, Malaysia, last week.

Globe Telecoms and Skyways are joining circuit sponsor Northwest Airlines as major backers for the Sherwoods leg of the Tour organized by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

Merwin Mediana, president of Jungolf, said the entry of Globe Telecoms and Skyways is an indication of the return of corporate support to the local jungolf movement which is enjoying one of its widest participation in years.

Meanwhile, provincial entry Justin Limjap nipped Laurence Negrido and Rhiz de Roca in a sudden-death playoff in Class B to lead the winners of last week's Philippine Jungolf Classic at the north course of Canlubang.

Limjap parred the second extra hole to prevail as Negrido made bogey. De Roca was the first to go as he bogeyed the first playoff hole.

Big start by Sta. Elena ladies

STA. Elena opened defense of its overall crown with a big victory in Class A as the 2001 Women's Golf Association of the Philippines Circuit kicked off recently at the Navy Golf Club course.

The team of Carina Ricamonte, Cora Suntay, Nancy Ortega and Venice Godio survived a tough challenge by the Beng Ibo-led Riviera and Manila Southwoods to clinch the centerpiece division of the 18-hole tourney.

Villamor topped Class B while Riviera flexed its muscle in Class C for an even competition in team play.

Nancy Tsai, Amelou Juinio, Elo Shamm and Minnie Jentes carried the Villamor cause, warding off the determined bid of host Navy's Mayeth Chan, Rose Torrefranca, Cora Aguinaldo and Sarah Gabriel.

Riviera's Class C victims included Alabang and Villamor.

Navy bets dominated the individual division.

Leny Cabili emerged the Class A champion while teammate Mayeth Chang took the Class B crown. Karen Buenaventura of Manila Golf bagged the Class C plum.

A total of 128 players representing nine clubs saw action.

Sir George marks milestone

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

SPORTS has been part of George Chua's life since his younger years. As a student, he played college football at Letran before he became a successful businessman, rising from the ranks to serve as executive vice president of Photokina Marketing Corp. Right now, he is deeply involved in basketball being the franchise owner of Batang Red Bull, the PBA's "team of the masa." A teenage son, Paul, is also very much involve din basketball being a key player of multi-titled Xavier school.

Sir George, who marked his 47th birthday last May 5, has a special place in my heart for being sincere and honest. More importantly, he values friendship.

"Friendship comes first, business second," he once told me.

I was introduced to him by my kumpadre, Nic Jorge, way back in the mid-1990s when I was the president of the Philippine Sportswriters Association. Through the years and, chiefly because of his generous support, red bull has sponsored many worthy PSA undertakings, including the weekly PSA Forum and annual PSA Awards Night, extending up to the present under colleagues Ding Marcelo of the "bulletin" and Lito Tacujan of the "Philippine Star."

The company has also been a perennial patron of other sports like boxing, golf and billiards. But it is his participation in the Philippine basketball Association which would go down as one of his life's sterling achievements.

"Words are not enough to describe our happiness and gratitude for being given the chance to join the country's leading professional sports organization," the soft-spoken Sir George said after Batang Red Bull was elevated from the Philippine Basketball League to the PBA. "Our company officials and employees, our players, our suppliers and our fans are all excited about the team's bold decision to move from the PBL to the PBA. We'll try our best not to disappoint."

Of course, the Red Bull Thunder have proven that they could do more than simply win games. They could also win more friends and followers with their never-say-die brand of play and a high level of sportsmanship that have earned them respect and recognition.

A fitness buff, the PMC executive also relaxes by singing along with his friends and business associates at the plush Photokina penthouse at least once a week. His favorites include Tagalog love songs of yesteryears.

* * *

MARILAO CELEBRATES. Tomorrow, May 8, my hometown, Marilao, Bulacan, marks the annual feast of St. Michael Arcangel. One of the most peaceful, drug-free and cleanest towns in the province, much of the credit should go to Mayor Nonoy Duran, a product of the University of the Philippines. Mayor Nonoy is undefeated in local politics like his brother Eny Duran, a Bulacan three-term board member. Nonoy played varsity basketball for UP and saw action in the MCAA for the colorful Crispa Redmanizers owned by the late sportsman nonpareil Danny Floro.

Monarchos wins 2nd fastest Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—Monarchos ran the second fastest Kentucky Derby in history, then had to withstand a foul claim to get the impressive victory Saturday at Churchill Downs.

Monarchos finished the 1.25 miles (2.01 kilometers) in 1:59 4-5, only two-fifths of a second off the track record set by Secretariat in 1973. But moments later jockey John Velazquez, who finished second on Invisible Ink, claimed the winner, ridden by Jorge Chavez, had interfered with him at the quarter-pole.

The stewards needed little time to reject the claim. No winner in a Triple Crown race has ever been disqualified.

Monarchos charged through the stretch to win by 4-3/4 lengths and justify Chavez's high opinion of him.

Only Ron Turcotte, who rode Secretariat, has been on this kind of a horse in the Derby

Invisible Ink, a 30-1 shot, finished a nose in front of Congaree, who was 4 lengths ahead of Thunder Blitz. Favored Point Given was another 2 3/4 lengths back in the field of 17 3-year-olds.

It was the first Derby victory for Chavez, trainer John Ward and owner John C. Oxley. *AP*

YMCA to offer swim programs

PRIVATE learning and sporting institutions in Makati City are offering swimming scholarship programs to the needy and deserving swimming enthusiasts in a bid to discover talents in the city.

The Makati Sports Club, YMCA Makati, the MetroClub, Don Bosco Technological Institute and Colegio de San Agustin are among those giving scholarships.

"Getting the youth into sports helps them stay away from drugs and one way to do it is to make these facilities accessible to the youth," said Makati City councilor Mark Joseph, the country's national swimming coach in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Joseph, an International Olympic Committee scholar in coaching and sports management, said the concept is part of a long term plan to have a sports academy in the city, packed with world-class sports instructors.

SILVER CUP WINNER

Hermie Esguerra (fourth from left) holds the Silver Cup handed to him by Mike Arroyo after Wind Blown won the recent First Gentleman Silver Cup race at San Lazaro. Also in photo (from left) are jockey FM Raquel Jr., PCSO chair Ma. Livia "Honey Girl" de Leon and Wind Blown's breeder and former owner Sandy Javier.

Lim, Grebert top triathlon

RP Team-developmental pool member Sean Lim claimed the fastest time of the OHM National Age-Group Triathlon series 2nd leg in Sta. Cruz, Laguna yesterday.

The 20-year-old Lim finishes first in 1 hour, 5 minutes and 32 seconds, claiming the 15-19 male age-group title and earning 100 points. Following him was Cebu's Abet Biagan (25-29 Male Tampion) with 1:06:32, and Manila Triathlon Club president Raul Cuevas (25-29 Male 2nd placer) at 1:07:20. Abet Biagan, who's joining the Philippine triathlon delegation to Malaysia this month, has a series total of 185 points, followed by Lim's 160 points after two legs.

On the distaff side, Australia's Cathy Grebert repeated her dominance. Grebert clocked 1:18:59, winning the 30-34 female age title and earning another 100 points for the series. Cebu's Amale Mendezona won the 25-29 female title. Grebert leads the female series standings with 200 points, followed by Mendezona's 170.

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Baritua prevails

JOSEPH Baritua of Team Benetton emerged as the overall winner in the first leg of the mini 4WD Challenge presented by Tom Sports International of actor Jomari Yllana at the Robinsion's Place- Manila.

Baritua's entry, Broken Gegant, topped the one-day event. He brought home P5,000 plus medal. Second place went to Rascor Lu Ruto, while third place went to Julius Pedayo.

Liv Morano of Robinson's Manila awarded the trophies to the winners. The next leg is scheduled on May 26 at the same venue.

For details call Maye Abasolo at tels. 534-1457 and 535-0455.

'Sabado' derbies at Roligon

WITH the "Bilis Sultada, Bayad-Agad Parada" policy promised by Roligon Mega Cockpit's new management under Danny Ty & Company, derby hosts have started lining up to promote at the huge Parañaque landmark.

The events have been dubbed as the "Big Fights on Sabado Nights" which is aimed to present the best in cocking action and entertainment.

Set to raise the curtain on May 19 is the RAY 4-Cock Derby, assisted by the BL Showdown group.

This will be followed by a string of Saturday night events such as the CMS 4-Cocker of Carding Ng of Kalookan City.

St. Benilde wrests lead

NCAA champion College of St. Benilde streaked to its third straight senior victory in the 7th Fr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament yesterday by subduing University of the East, 78-64, at the UE gym. Xavier School's Stallions downed the UE Pages, 65-56, to assume solo junior leadership in Group B also at 3-0.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

PBA FINALS

San Miguel takes opener

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Philsports)
5:15 p.m.—Pop vs Shell (KO for 3rd)
7:30 p.m.—SMB vs Ginebra (Game 2)

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

SAN Miguel Beer held off Barangay Ginebra's fast-paced game to prevail, 81-75, last night in Game 1 of their PBA All-Filipino Cup championship series at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Beermen never let the Gin Kings to get into their groove, expertly reining in Ginebra's potentially devastating run-and-gun game to gain the headstart in their best-of-seven affair.

Ginebra, heavy underdog against its powerhouse sister team, expectedly launched mini rallies but they all fizzled out as soon as Danny Seigle found his range late in the game.

Ron Jacobs, consultant to both Ginebra and San Miguel, broke his promise to go on exile during the series and instead took on the role of a TV analyst.

With still five minutes left and SMB on top (72-58), Jacobs sounded an alarm for Ginebra and predicted how the Gins would fold up under San Miguel's crunchtime assault.

"Ginebra must win Game 2, otherwise it would be very difficult to win against San Miguel four games out of five," he said.

SMB coach Jong Uichico, Jacobs' protege just like Ginebra mentor Allan Caidic, attributed the win to SMB's longer time to prepare.

He also undermined the effects of their victory in the series: "It's not a gauge, because they are tired. On Game 2, when we are both rested, we'll see how we really fare against each other."

There was no way the Gins could employ their bread-and-butter running game as the Beermen controlled the boards and deliberately slowed things down.

What made things worse for the Gins was their failure to match the Beermen's shooting proficiency, making just 21 percent of their shots in the first quarter as against SMB's 47 percent.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL 81—Ildefonso 20, Racela 20, Seigle 17, Belasco 7, Pena 6, Victoria 4, Lago 3, Abuda 2, Duat 2.

GINEBRA 75—Calpito 13, Meneses 12, Limpot 12, Caguloa 9, Lago 8, Helterbrand 8, David 5, Crisano 4, Magtulis 4, Ong 0.

Quarters: 22-10, 41-29, 58-52, 81-75.

Miñoza hits ₱9-M jackpot

BY JONG ARCANO

MIÑOZA

FILIPINO ace Frankie Miñoza wiped out a seven-stroke deficit on the last seven holes, ending a three-year winless spell in the Japanese Tour with a dramatic one-stroke victory yesterday in the Fujisankei Classic in Ito, Japan.

Miñoza, 41, capped the amazing comeback with an explosion of three straight birdies from the 14th for a five-under-par 66 and escaped a playoff when Japanese Tsukasa Watanabe bogeyed the final hole.

Miñoza pocketed $183.000 (about P9.3 million) in posting his sixth victory in Japan since he started campaigning there in 1989. His last victory came in the 1998 Kirin Open.

The Filipino had an eight-under 276 total at the Kawana Hotel course, edging Watanabe who shot a 69 for 277. Tomohiro Kondoh finished third at 278 after a 70.

Miñoza plays in the Japan PGA championship this week as the No. 2 player in the Order of Merit—the highest he has reached in his entire Japan campaign—with winnings of 37 million yen (about $300,000).

He has not missed a cut in his last six tournaments so far and had registered four Top 15 finishes.

Lakers beat Marlins, tie LBC Blades

BY ROY LUARCA

WHAT they lack in stamina, the Laguna Lakers fill up with firepower.

This was evident with the way the Lakers downed the Socsargen Marlins and tied the Batangas Blades in their MBA preseason exhibition games over the weekend.

The Lakers led by as many as 21 points before coasting to a 92-84 victory over the Marlins at the National School of Arts and Trade Aquino gym in San Pablo City on Saturday.

It was the same story yesterday as the Lakers surged ahead by 20 points only to let the Blades level the count, 78-78, at the final buzzer at the New San Luis Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

"I can see that I already have a team. *Kulang lang sa hangin*," said Laguna coach Bonnie Garcia. "Anyway we only have one week of preparation for this series."

The FedEx-backed Lakers are touring the different Laguna towns to bring the team closer to the people as well as help team owner Bert Lina in his campaign for governor.

Against the Marlins of coach Boyzie Zamar, the Lakers leaned on Fil-Ams Jeffrey Flowers, Chris Clay and hotshot Biboy Simon.

Flowers scored a game-high 27 and collared 16 rebounds, while Clay scored 24 points and issued 10 assists. Simon chipped in 15 points, including a clutch triple that stopped Socsargen's rally in the fourth quarter.

Veteran Bong Alvarez tallied 22 points for the Marlins, who played their first official game for the first time.

Against the LBC-backed Blades of coach Nash Racela, the Lakers again banked on Flowers and Clay, with support from national player Junel Mendiola.

Though he was satisfied with his wards' performance, Garcia said there's a lot of hard work ahead as this year's eight-team field in the MBA is definitely stronger.

"You cannot take any of these teams for granted," said Garcia. "Even the Marlins look promising."

Geralyn rips javelin mark

PINT-SIZED Geralyn Amandoron stood tallest in women's javelin yesterday, setting a record and helping the Philippines capture second place in the 47th Thailand Open Track and Field Championships at the Thammasat University Stadium in Bangkok.

Standing only 5-foot-3, Amandoron produced a giant heave of 51 meters to clinch the gold in her first attempt, an effort which overshadowed the 49.70-meter throw of Thailand's Buaban Phamang, who settled for silver.

Amandoron's feat eclipsed the 17-year-old record of 49.24 meters set by her coach Erlinda Lavandia during the RP-USSR dual meet held in Manila in 1984.

Liliya Duametova of Uzbekistan copped the bronze with a 47.16-meter heave.

"I really hope my performance will increase my chance to be in the national team," said the 21-year-old Amandoron, who is vying for a slot in the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games in September.

Athletics chief Go Teng Kok hailed Amandoron's record-breaking effort, saying the Cebuana is one of the brightest prospects for a gold medal in the biennial sportsfest.

In snaring its fourth gold medal, the Philippines jumped to second place behind the nine gold medals of host Thailand.

Eduardo Buenavista, Emerson Obiena and John Lozada earned the country a gold each in the first two days of competition.

Lozada is on track for another gold medal after topping the semifinal heat of the 800-meter run. He will also anchor the men's 4X400 relay squad composed of Ernie Candelario, Jimar Aing and Abdul Rahim in the finals.

Sydney Olympian Lerma Bulauitan is also eyeing a gold in women's long jump while Buenavista and Allan Ballister are the country's top bets in the men's 5,000 meters.

"I am very proud of our athletes because despite the meager funding, they were able to hold their own against the best in the region, including campaigners from the former Soviet Republic and Middle East," said Go.

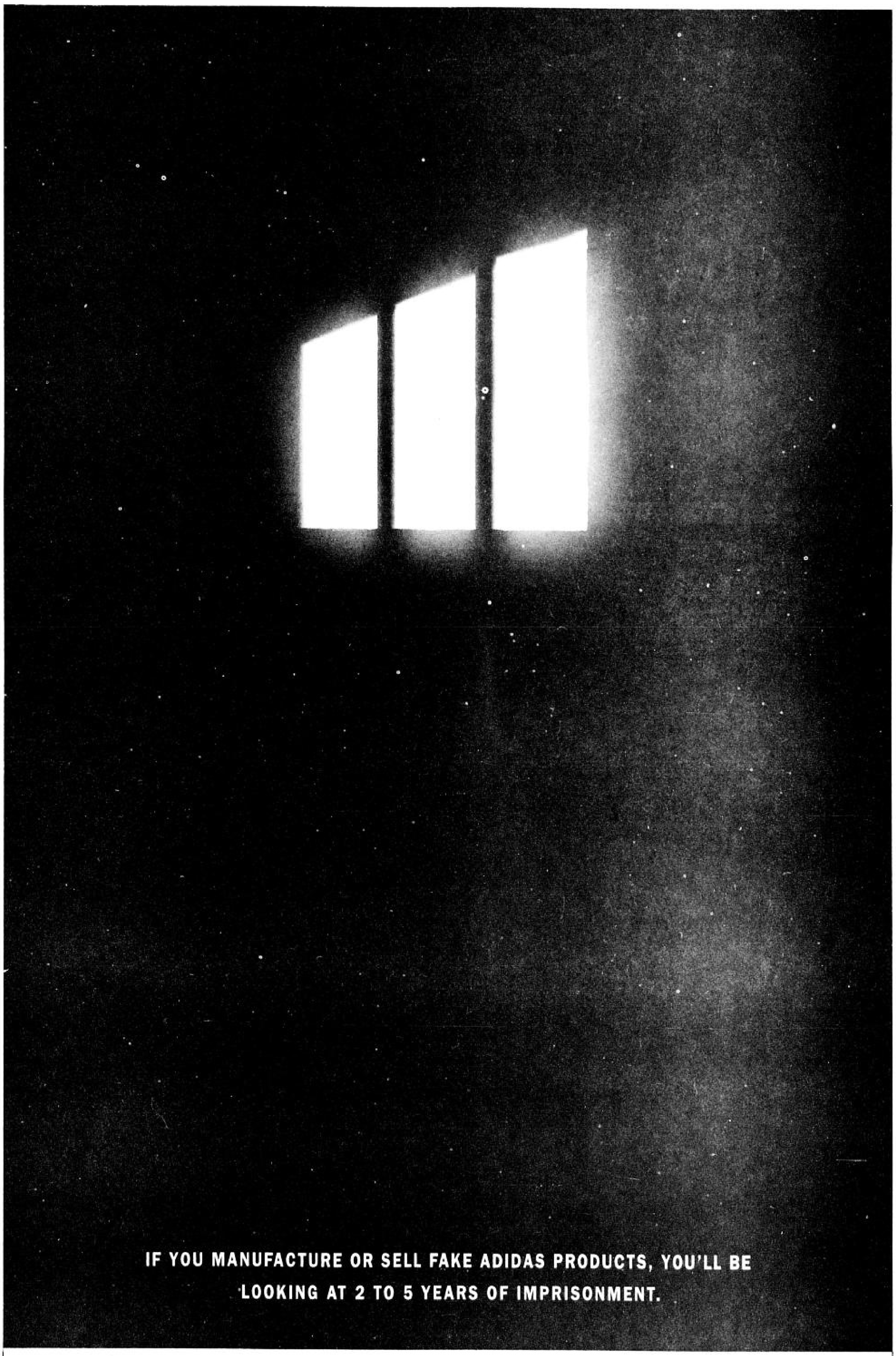
June Navarro

Lapore advances

SIXTH seed Jesus Lapore eliminated second pick Rolando Ruel Jr., 7-5, 6-2, yesterday and enter the men's singles finals of the P100,000 Luis Hilado Memorial Cup at the Nota tennis court in Bacolod City.

Lapore, a member of the RP men's team coaching staff, will face top seed Adelo Abadia, who defeated unranked Ronald Paz, 6-4, 6-2.

Meanwhile, the top-ranked pair of Abadia and Ruel outplayed Niño Salvador and Paz, 6-1, 6-4, to reach the doubles finals of the Philta-sanctioned tournament sponsored by the Negros Tennis Foundation, Mariposa Foundation Inc. and Dunlop.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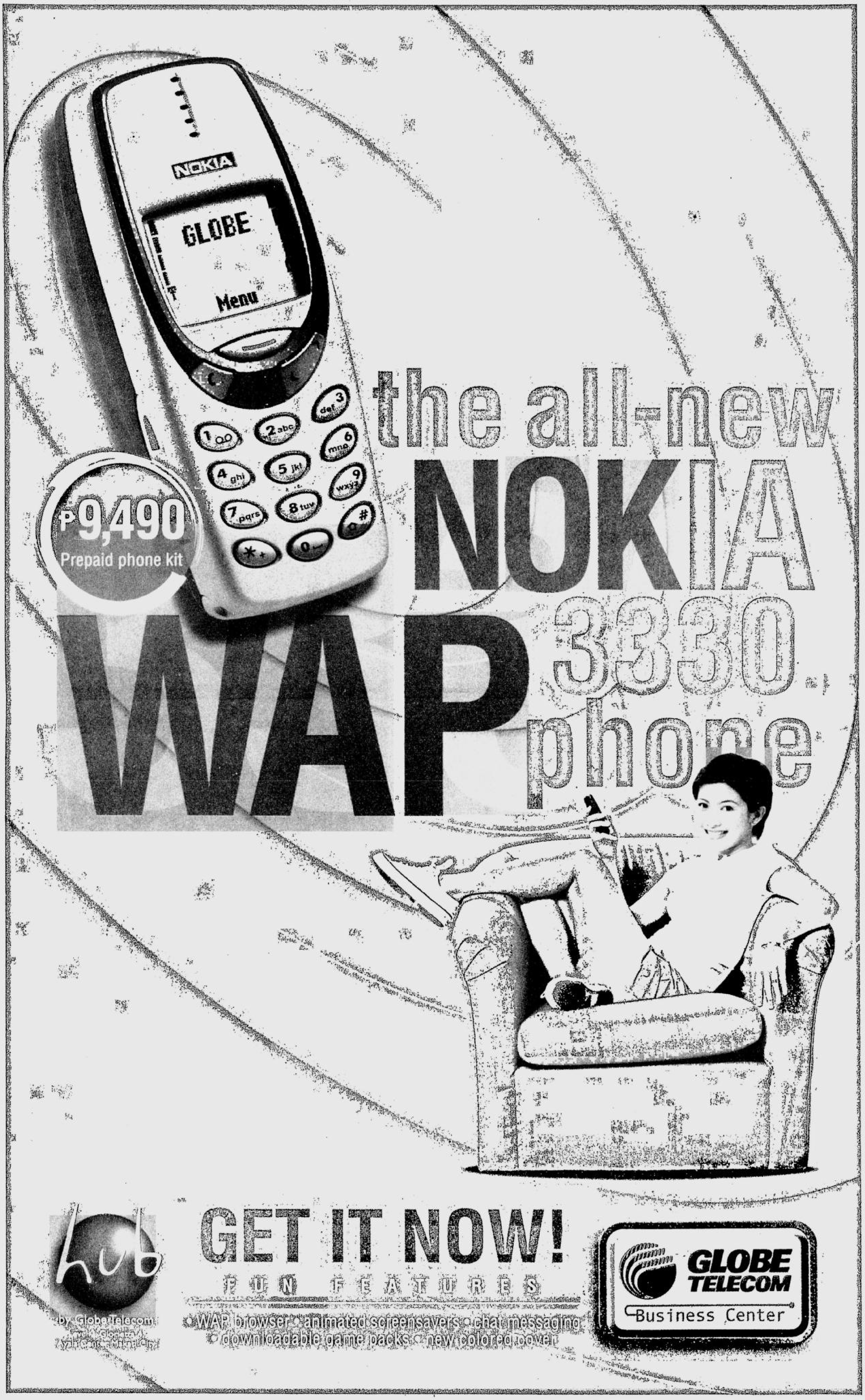

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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Voter's Voice 2001 A27

21-year-old raped, stabbed dead in QC

Victim going home when waylaid

By Philip C. Tubeza

FORMER waitress Julieta Gonzales Olano, 21, must have thought she was saving time and money when she took a short cut through a dark and vacant lot to get home in Novaliches, Quezon City before dawn yesterday.

Olano never reached her home at the Feliciano Compound on Lily Street in Maligaya Park, Barangay Pasong Putik.

She was raped and murdered by suspected drug addicts, said investigator SPO1 Ramon Fernandez of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Olano was found yesterday morning in the grassy lot at the back of the Total gas station along Quirino Avenue in Fairview. Police said she was naked from the waist down and had been stabbed three times in the back.

The suspect or suspects used an ice pick, which police did not find at the crime scene, Fernandez said.

Police said a Mario C. Mejia found Olano's body around 7 a.m. some 15 meters away into the grassy lot from the dirt road.

"She was lying on her side," SPO1 Fernandez said. "Her arms were folded on her chest as if protecting her exposed breasts."

The victim's shirt and bra were pulled up above her chest, he said. Her pants were later found several meters away on the dirt road.

"I told her not to go home early in the morning but she was so stubborn," said Olano's housemate, Jennifer Barotillo, 18.

Barotillo told the INQUIRER that Olano left the house around 4 p.m. Saturday saying she was going to meet her boyfriend in Cubao.

"She said she was going to come home before dawn and so I discourage her," the housemate said. "Now look what happened."

SPO1 Fernandez said Olano must have been waylaid while she was walking on a dirt road along the vacant lot behind the gas station.

"That path is unlighted at night," he said. "There is a *nipa* hut along the way but that is seldom used by barangay officials as an outpost.

"She must have decided to take that route because the way through Maligaya Park is longer and she would have had to take a tricycle," Fernandez said.

Barotillo said the walk through the vacant lot from the Total gas station to their home usually takes only five to six minutes.

"The barangay officials said there are many drug addicts in the area," Fernandez said. "We are now trying to find out who among them are known to carry an ice pick."

The victim's body was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy and to confirm if she was indeed raped, Fernandez added.

Barotillo said Olano moved to the Feliciano Compound only two months ago. She was a native of Talisayan, Misamis Oriental, she added.

American doc accused of raping pen pal

By Christian V. Esguerra

A 49-YEAR-OLD American, who is said to be a doctor, has been accused of raping his 19-year-old pen pal at the Holiday Inn in Ermita, Manila last Friday, police said.

Members of the Western Police District General Assignments Section are now looking for Stephen Blair, said to be a doctor of medicine, who last stayed at the Holiday Inn on United Nations Avenue in Ermita.

His young pen pal, a resident of Port Area, Manila, told police she went to the hotel at about 7 p.m. Friday to meet the American, according to the case investigator, PO2 Rommel Anicete.

Blair and the young woman had long been writing letters to each other, the investigator said. They decided to finally meet Friday night after the American arrived in Manila, police said.

Inside Blair's hotel room, the American and the young woman exchanged pleasantries, but the latter was shocked when the foreigner suddenly forced himself upon her, police said.

The young woman said that she was able to escape at about 1 a.m. the following day, after the American fell asleep. She went straight to the nearby WPD headquarters to report the alleged assault.

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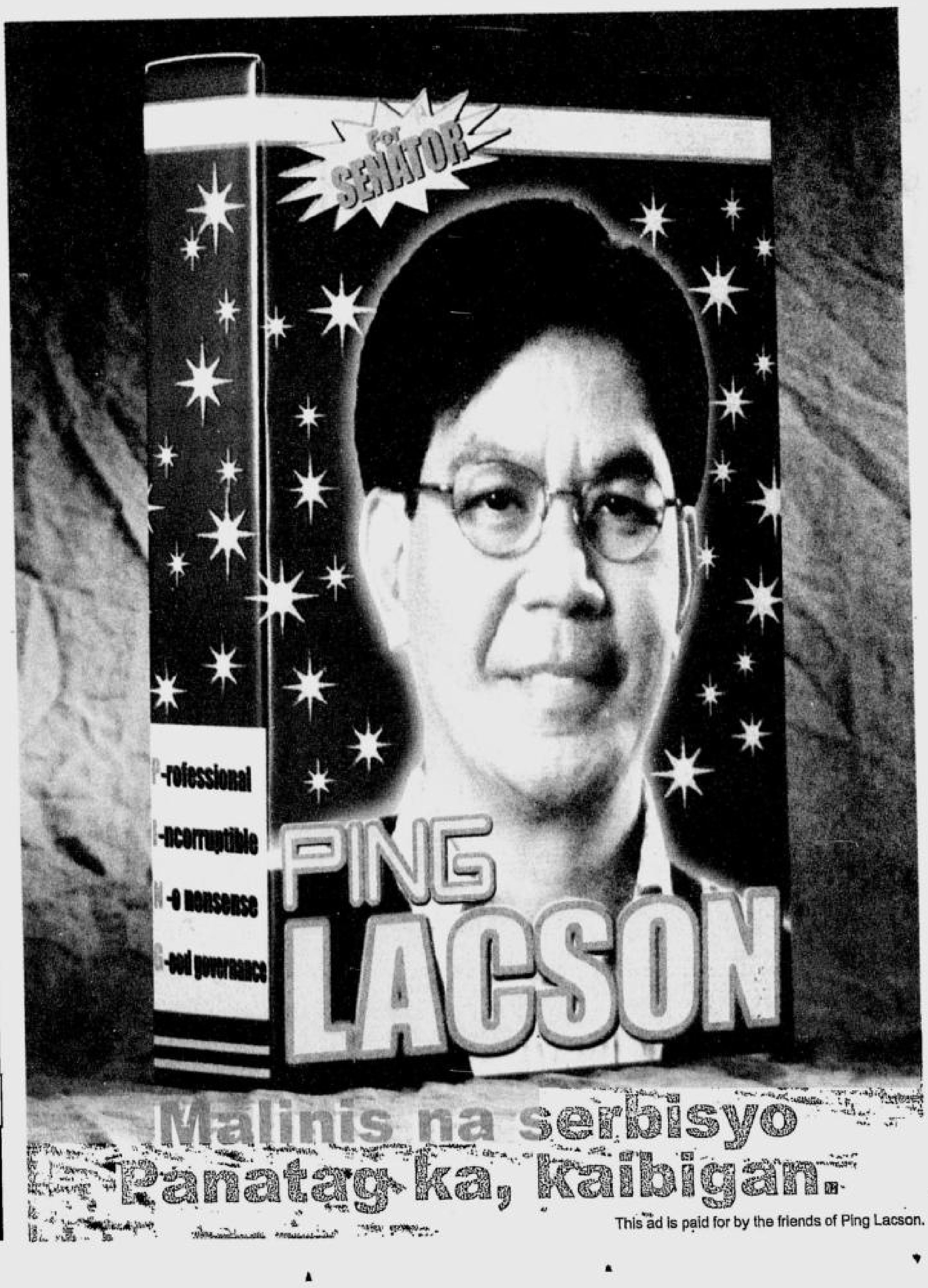


This ad is paid for by the friends of Ping Lacson.

Virra Mall blaze still raging

By Agnes E. Donato

THE EXPLOSION of a liquefied petroleum gas inside a fastfood outlet might have started the fire that started Saturday noon and was still raging as of yesterday at the Vira Mall in Greenhills, firefighters said.

The fire has already destroyed millions of pesos in property in textile, computer equipment, mobile phones and appliances sold in various establishments at the mall.

FO1 Zosimo Valenzuela of the Bureau of Fire Protection said firemen from all over Metro Manila were still struggling to extinguish the blaze.

Valenzuela said he received information that the fire could have started in the stockroom of a Jollibee branch on the third floor of the building.

"An LPG tank must have exploded, triggering the fire," he said.

Senior Insp. Eloy Gabriel, San Juan fire marshal, said the fire started at 12:20 p.m. on Saturday and spread to different parts of the third floor.

At 8 a.m. yesterday, the fire raged anew after some of the fire volunteers went home to rest.

Gabriel said he had to ask even some of his off-duty men to help out because the fire proved to be unmanageable.

"We had to raise the alarm, so other fire districts would also respond," he said. "So far, at least 20 trucks have been sent here."

Gabriel explained that the firefighters had difficulty in extinguishing the blaze because of poor ventilation.

He also noted that the old building has very few windows so that the smoke was trapped inside. He said almost all the shops had accordion-type steel doors, which made it almost impossible for the firefighters to enter the shops.

12-year-old killed by neighbor

By Philip C. Tubeza

GRADE IV pupil John Rey Banaag was stabbed dead by a neighbor while the boy was playing with a friend in Quezon City on Saturday night.

Banaag, 12, of Block 3, Lot 54, Slorpio Alley, Goodwill Townhouse, Bagbag, Novaliches, Quezon City, was stabbed thrice by a neighbor who was identified only as Felipe, said PO2 Joseph Diño of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

The stabbing happened while Banaag was riding a bicycle with his friend Andrew on Saturday night, PO2 Diño said.

The two boys were cycling in front of the Goodwill Elementary School around 9 p.m. when Felipe attacked, Diño said.

He said Felipe suddenly blocked the two boys' path and stabbed Banaag several times.

Felipe did not hurt Andrew, police said. The suspect ran away after the stabbing, Diño added.

He said the Banaag's neighbors brought the boy to the Bernardino Hospital where he was declared dead on arrival at 9:20 p.m.

Banaag's body was later brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory, Diño said.

Police were still trying to identify the suspect and to find witnesses.

Peñalosa doesn't deserve comedians

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

NOT surprising that the champ himself ended up very surprised.

Unlike in past victories, Gerry Peñalosa refused to head straight to the showers.

He also refused to readily change to street clothes. Instead, Peñalosa shadow-boxed furiously for two rounds after retaining his title on Saturday. He worked hard to bring out what his worthless Japanese challenger had failed to rouse: much-needed sweat.

The bout, if you could call it one, was both comic and annoying.

Keiji Yamaguchi, swore his handler, Joe Koizumi, was no patsy. The foreigner, a former world crown holder, had also bragged there was no way Peñalosa could beat him.

Naturally, everybody bought that sales pitch. After all, Mr. Koizumi, who was also given the distinct honor of reciting the Japanese national anthem on the ring, is supposed to be a well-respected boxing manager/matchmaker hereabouts.

Most of those who fell for the antics, however, ended up very frustrated.

Not a few complained that they had been cheated.

Of course, despite the comic outcome, Mr. Koizumi is expected to continue promoting in Manila.

But the Games and Amusements Board, supposed to be in charge of professional boxing in the country, should first ask the gregarious promoter a few questions before he's allowed to do business again in Manila.

* * *

For example, Mr. Koizumi should be made to answer if he knows our beloved Dolphy.

If he says no, the Japanese promoter should be told that the durable King of Comedy, despite a terrible bout with heart disease, could have done better than Yamaguchi.

Peñalosa stopped Yamaguchi in only 93 seconds of a scheduled 12-round bout for the WBC International super flyweight championship at the refurbished Araneta Coliseum on Saturday.

Asked if a first-round stoppage was part of his original fight plan, Peñalosa yesterday answered in the negative.

Hindi po kuya, he said. He explained that in fact, he started out extra cautiously because he sincerely thought Yamaguchi would be worth all the bother.

In fact, Peñalosa yesterday confided to the INQUIRER that the overhand left which landed smack on the jaw of the Japanese and sent him flat on his back, black foreign footwear pointing to the overhead bulbs, was actually intended to be a test punch.

It was meant only to jolt or send a message, not exactly to maim or floor the challenger.

* * *

It was not exactly the dish he had ordered. But there being no other choice, Peñalosa went on to feast on the shaken, defenseless visitor, before the stunned Japanese trainer decided to beg for mercy by hurling in the towel.

As expected, there was jubilation at ringside, there were shouts and cheers. But all these next fizzled into doubting silence once the crowd realized what had taken place.

No, they had not really been taken for a ride. Maybe Mr. Koizumi sincerely believed his boy would be able to live up to half of the pre-fight hype lavished on him.

It just so happened that the imported merchandise, the former world champ who was expected to give Peñalosa at least a worthy tune-up before he goes for the WBC super flyweight crown proper, proved more fit for a comic skit. He kept dancing and shuffling while the Philippine national anthem was being played.

In marketing, it was a silly case of mislabeling. But this being the sport of boxing, the poor spectators are left to pick up the chits while the impresarios head home with the loot.

* * *

The main undercard, featuring unbeaten RP junior lightweight-champ Randy Suico, a protégé of Rex Wakee Salud who has produced three Filipino world champions, and the comebacking Joma Gamboa, was not exactly comic.

However, opposition was so mediocre--the two Thais performed more like softball catchers—that the one-sided results left ringsider experts insisting on more calibered, classy opponents for Pinoy world title hopefuls.

"They (Thais) must've started out as prime ministers back home but decided to enter the boxing ring after they got toppled in a coup," quipped fight scholar Hermie Rivera.

Well, it will be hard to determine how much good pre-fight hype could do to a promotion. It's of course easier to measure how a defending champ, in this case Gerry Peñalosa, would react to the claims and brags of the opposing camp.

When Gerry Boy, in an immaculate white sweatshirt, ushered this reporter into his dugout a little over an hour before the main bout, he appeared both alert and tense. He was very courteous, but unsmiling.

He evidently had trained extra hard for the all-important bout that would automatically set him up for another crack at the WBC 115-pound crown which he used to own.

Anyway, we have gone to the extent of bringing in Dolphy, our King of Comedy, to caution Peñalosa against feeling and believing he's now that super.

If Dolphy, say, had been inside the ring instead, he would have fired a one-liner to send Peñalosa retreating: "Don't take yourself too seriously, champ."

To paraphrase: Great boxers cannot excel on a diet of comedians.

NEW SKAL OFFICERS

TOURISM Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab (extreme left) inducts into office the new board of directors of SKAL International Manila at the Century Park Hotel. The new officers are (from left) Avelino Zapanta, president; Larry J. Cruz, vice president; Evelina Estrada, secretary; Robert Dee, treasurer; Alice San Juan, auditor; Frankie Lagniton, public relations officer; Zet-Zette Papa and Eduard Hoogeweegen, directors; and Rene Ocampo, ex-officio member. SKAL International Manila is composed of top executives from the travel and tourism industry and is the 114th SKAL club in the world. The new board will serve the 2001-2002 term.

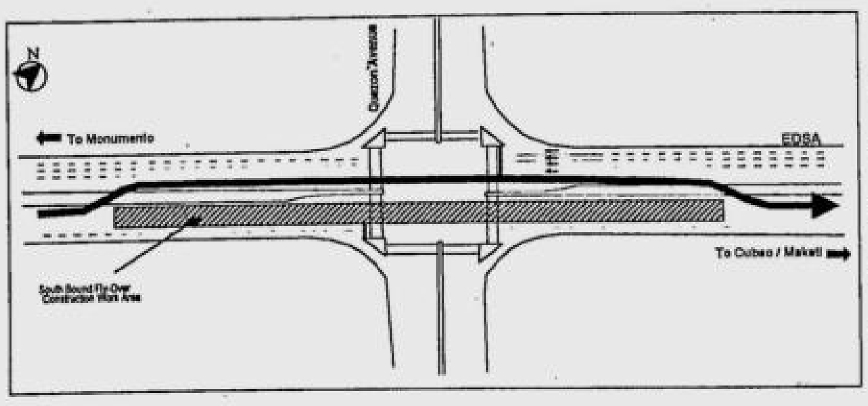
ANNOUNCEMENT

The DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS in coordination with the METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, the City Government of Quezon and the PNP – Traffic Enforcement Group announces the Construction of Stage 4 of the EDSA – Quezon Interchange Project,

CONSTRUCTION OF THE EDSA SOUTHBOUND FLY-OVER

Traffic Management Plan

(Effective May 8 to October 6, 2001)



To minimize impact of the proposed construction works to traffic in the area, the following traffic measures as part of the overall traffic management strategy are to be implemented.

a) Two (2) way traffic along EDSA and Quezon Avenue shall be maintained throughout the duration of Stage 4,

b) Public Utility Buses and Jeepneys (PUBs and PUJs) shall continue to use EDSA and Quezon Avenue,

c) Counterflow / Reversible lanes along EDSA approximately between Benitez and Mother Ignacia streets will be allocated for south bound traffic,

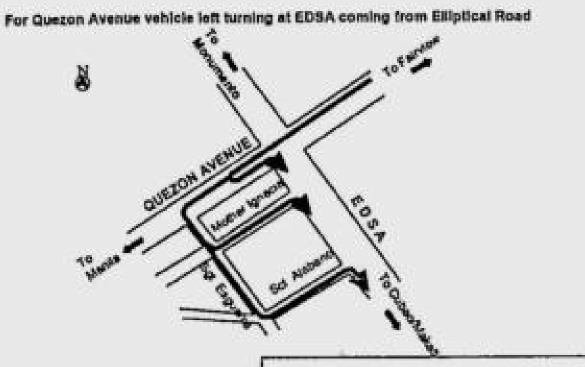
d) Left turners at EDSA – Quezon Avenue intersection are encouraged to follow hook turn or left turn alternate routes (see details below),

e) Private vehicles along EDSA and Quezon Avenue are encouraged to take designated alternate routes (see details below).

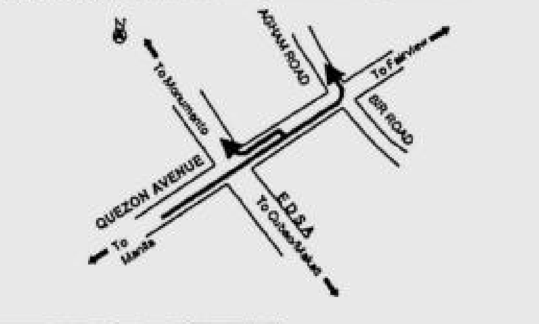
COUNTER FLOW / REVERSIBLE SCHEME

Morning Peak Hour :	5 Lanes Southbound 3 Lanes Northbound	Afternoon Peak Hour:	5 Lanes Northbound 3 Lanes Southbound

For Quezon Avenue vehicle left turning at EDSA coming from Elliptical Road

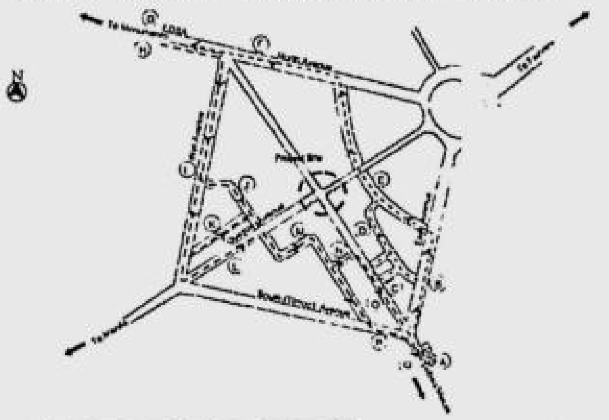


For Quezon Avenue vehicle left turning at EDSA coming from Manila

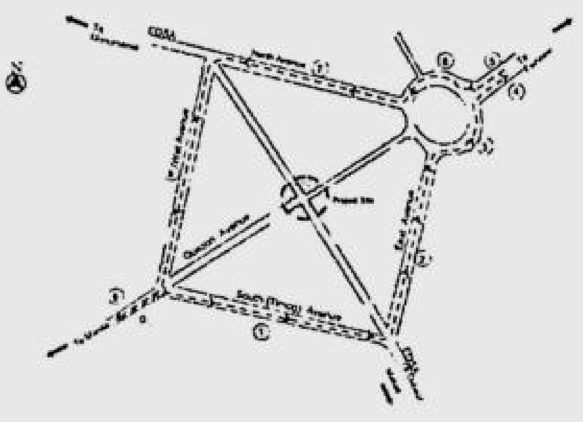


ALTERNATE ROUTES

NORTH BOUND / SOUTH BOUND ALTERNATE ROUTES



EAST BOUND / WEST BOUND ALTERNATE ROUTES



From Cubao/Makati (North Bound):
A – From EDSA
C – Take NIA Road
E – Left turn at BIR Road and straight to Agham
F – Left Turn at North Avenue
G – Straight to EDSA.
Alternatively:
A – From EDSA
B – Left turn at East Avenue
E – Left turn at BIR Road & straight to Agham
F – Left turn at North Avenue
G – Straight to EDSA

From Monumento (South Bound):
H – From EDSA
I – Right turn at West Avenue
K – Left turn at Times street OR
L – Left turn at Quezon Avenue
J – Right turn at Examiner & to Sct. Albano
M – Left turn at Mother Ignacia
N – Right turn at Sgt. Esguerra & left turn at Sct. Albano and to EDSA OR
Left turn at Timog & Right turn at EDSA

From Manila (East Bound):
0 – From Quezon Avenue
1 – Right turn at Timog Avenue
2 – Straight to East Avenue
3 – Right turn at Elliptical Road
4 – Right turn at Don Mariano Marcos Avenue

From Fairview (West Bound):
5 – From DMMA
6 – Right turn at Elliptical Road
7 – Right turn at North Avenue
8 – Straight to West Avenue
9 – Right turn at Quezon Avenue

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For more information, visit any INQUIRER branch or call **897-2535.**

- Prices are VAT exclusive
- Rate is applicable on the May 13 issue only

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SAMPLE ADS

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Issa

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EDCEL LAGMAN

Onsite development, not relocation, for squatters

By Philip C. Tubeza

FORMER Albay congressman Edcel Lagman likes to tell his listeners that he enjoys taking on challenges.

His latest challenge is taking on incumbent Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay and three other contenders for the congressional seat to represent Quezon City's fourth district.

While recent tragedies in Quezon City like the Payatas dumpsite landslide and the Ozone Disco fire have battered Mathay's political career, he remains a powerful opponent, being recognized as one of the country's most consummate urban politicians.

Lagman himself says Mathay is his most formidable opponent. And he is fighting Mathay right in the latter's turf: Quezon City's fourth congressional district, which the mayor used to represent in Congress.

But Lagman says he is focusing on providing solutions to the fourth district's long-term problems rather than on beating his opponents.

"I look for challenges like these," says Lagman. "All I want to do is really make a miracle in the fourth district. I think I can do it and I will do it. It's matter of will and determination."

Lagman, the brother of slain militant labor leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman, says: "I see problems here that are age-old. It's really surprising that these problems have not been addressed in the past despite the promises made by those who campaigned and won before."

High on the list of those problems are the homeless urban poor. He says he is in favor of onsite development rather than relocating the squatters to far-flung areas, where there are no basic amenities for them.

"I am opting for onsite development. Those who are relocated sell their rights to their new homes and then they come back to where they used to live in the slum. That does not solve the problem."

LAGMAN

He says he will convince what he calls the "informal occupants" to accept medium-rise and high-rise mass housing.

"Many of them want single-detached housing units," he says. "But you have so many families and the land is limited. So you have to go up."

He says he will prioritize the distribution of government lots where squatters already live.

"Some of these pieces of government land are categorized as forestland. But you won't find a single tree; you'll find shanties.

"I think I can convince the government to distribute these lots. The occupants are not asking for them for free."

Lagman says the squatters will be provided a long-term payment scheme "with the least interest."

"Or maybe no interest at all," he adds.

He says new squatters will be prevented from coming to Quezon City once all the urban poor community leaders are convinced that this is also detrimental to their interests.

"The occupants should be able to police their own ranks because the more the informal occupants (increase), the lesser their share," he explains.

"So *sila mismo ang guardiya*. I tell them that and they understand."

On the more problematic issue of squatters on private lands, he says he himself will help negotiate with the private owners.

"And we are not going to take any private property without compensation," he says.

He says he will also convince the upper classes that their primary concerns—security, good government, and garbage—would be hard to address if there is no viable solution to the problems of the urban poor.

Lagman also intends to solve the

ONSITE/ A28

FREDDIE TINGA

'My focus is on education, employment, environment'

By Nini Valera

A SENSE of professionalism, management skills, and technological expertise are just some of the things that Freddie Rodriguez Tinga vows to bring to office if he is elected mayor of Taguig.

Tinga, 36, says he will focus on the basic issues of education, employment and environment—what he calls the three E's. He says he will address these concerns by bringing together the private sector, the local government and the residents of Taguig to create the best living and working environment in Metro Manila.

He believes education is the foundation for the progress of any community.

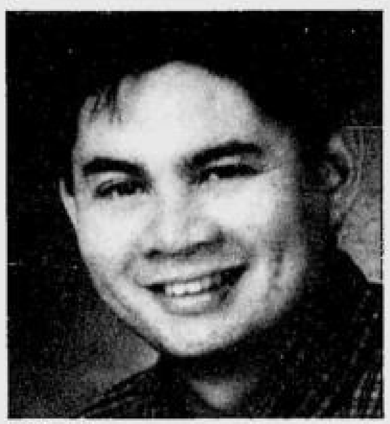
"It should be properly focused and be of a quality that would allow the town's economy to grow," he says. "Private sector support for the increase of classrooms as well as improvement of teacher preparation and benefits will be an important part of the municipality's educational development. It's important that the teachers be given the proper support and training.

"Eventually, one of the town's points of differentiation is the priority given to technology-related courses."

The same emphasis, he says, will also be given to youth and sports development because "this will eventually tear them away from drugs and alcohol."

Tinga believes that increased employment will be a result of Taguig's attractive business environment. Its steady supply of skilled labor is an added attraction for companies to come to Taguig, he says.

"But corruption in the local government must be stopped since this is a major deterrent to the entry of legitimate business establishments and corporations."


TINGA

He will also give preference and incentives to "clean" industries, as Taguig is too strategically located for pollution generating industries.

"The emphasis will be on technology-oriented firms, financial back of the house services as well as retail and entertainment support for a growing economy," he says.

To encourage companies to hire local residents, Tinga says, he will give these firms incentives and tax breaks.

Even if Taguig has made inroads in progress with the development of the Global City in Fort Bonifacio, the rest of the town still lacks basic services, he observes.

"This is deplorable. Garbage continues to be an eyesore."

He says he will address the garbage problem from the source and will push segregation and recycling to reduce waste. He also vows to select a garbage collection firm with the background and experience needed to clean up the town.

He promises bring into office the professionalism of the corporate world.

"The general decay in the living and working conditions in Taguig can be traced to the lack of professional skills and work habits in the municipality," he says. "This can only be addressed by having a leader with the relevant experience, ability and moral ascendancy to professionalize the municipal hall and rid it of its culture of corruption and efficiency."

Woman nabbed for bribery

CALOOCAN police yesterday arrested a 32-year-old businesswoman for allegedly trying to bribe them into releasing her nephew who had been detained for drug charges.

Elizabeth Hispano, a buy-and-sell agent and a resident of General Tirona Street, Bagong Barrio, Caloocan, was charged with corruption of public officer before the Caloocan City Prosecutor's Office.

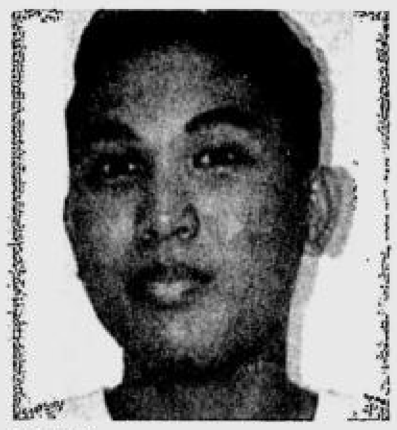
Hispano reportedly went to the Caloocan Police Community Precinct 1 and asked investigators to release her nephew, Danilo Adane, 20, of Mabuti Street, Barangay 145, Bagong Barrio, investigation showed.

When police refused to grant her request, Hispano allegedly handed P4,000 in cash to her nephew's arresting officer PO2 Harry Laxamana.

The officer did not accept the bribe and instead arrested her. Hispano is now detained at the Caloocan city jail.

At about 8 p.m. Friday, Laxamana accosted Adane for playing *cara y cruz* on M. de Castro Street in Bagong Barrio. The policeman allegedly found a sachet of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu" in Adane's possession.

Christian V. Esguerra


NISSE

Missing

IVES Jesus C. Nisse was last seen on April 25, 2001, at about 8:30 a.m., on the pedestrian overpass on Katipunan Avenue in Loyola Heights, Quezon City. He was wearing a white shirt, denim pants and sneakers.

Nisse is 18, 5-foot-4, 130 pounds, brown-complexioned, of medium build and wearing a flat-top haircut.

Those with any information leading to him may call 725-3664, 635-3591 or 0917-564-0464.

Jessica needs help

JESSICA Reyes, 11, grew up in a poor household in Barangay Pagasa, Binangonan, Rizal, which uses firewood for cooking, and where the only appliances are an electric fan and a radio cassette. They get their water from a kind neighbor.

Last week, her jobless father Demetrio finally had the courage to appeal for help. On April 16, doctors at the Rizal Medical Center said Jessica is suffering leukemia.

Demetrio, 47, who is himself afflicted with tuberculosis that cost him his janitorial job in 1998, said his daughter needs to undergo chemotherapy. But because of lack of money, he said he was forced to bring Jessica out of the hospital last Thursday.

For now, the family's sole breadwinner is Jessica's mother Emelia, who earns P2,400 monthly as a salesclerk. She is supporting Jessica, Demetrio and two other children aged 12 and nine.

REYES

To help Jessica, readers can call the municipal social welfare office of Binangonan at 673-5241. Look for Sister Belen Ibanez.

No water in Navotas

SEVERAL parts of Navotas will be waterless for 12 hours from 10 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8, up to 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 9.

Maynilad Water, the private concessionaire operating the West Zone of the former service area of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), said the interruption is due to the installation of a valve along C-3 Road near Northbay Boulevard in Navotas.

The areas that will go waterless are those along C-3 Road from Northbay to Navotas River, Bangus Street and lateral streets (Dagat-dagatan, Phase 1) and areas along Lapu-Lapu Avenue from Northbay to Navotas River.

These areas will experience low water pressure or will have no water at all during the same period: Lapu-Lapu Avenue and lateral streets from Navotas River to Dalagang Bukid and Northbay Boulevard from Manila/Navotas River to C-4.

CITIBANK

To our valued clients,

You may have heard in the news that a fire broke out in the Virra Mall Shopping Center last May 5, Saturday. The fire, which began in an adjacent building, later spread and affected our Greenhills branch.

The damage to our office was minimal. Rest assured that your transactions and pertinent banking records are intact and secure.

Until normal operations are restored, Citibank Greenhills clients are advised to transact their business at these branches:

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1 Eastwood Avenue
Eastwood City Cyberpark
Quezon City

Your personal bankers and CitiGold executives will be deployed in these branches to assist you in your transactions. For more information, you may also call the **24-Hour CitiPhone at 995-9999.**

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you, and thank you for your continued support.

Citibank Greenhills Management and Staff

Councilor says gambling lords backing Binay

By Nelson F. Flores

MAKATI City gambling lords have banded together to form a core group of supporters for the Binay administration and the mayoral candidacy of former city mayor and former Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Jejomar Binay, according to Councilor Mark Joseph.

Joseph yesterday said three of the most influential gambling lords operating in the city recently met and decided to band together to support the administration of Mayor Elenita Binay in a bid to protect their interests.

Joseph last year accused the Binay administration of coddling gambling lords and prostitution den operators by sponsoring ordinances legalizing these illegal trades.

Joseph said reports reaching his office indicate that known gambling lords, whom he identified as Toto, Tanggol and Esting, have decided that their only "salvation'' lies in the success of the Binay administration.

Joseph said Toto and Tanggol are operating jueteng joints in Bangkal and Kuli-Kuli while Esting operates in the city's first and second districts.

Joseph said among the steps earlier undertaken by the gang was to recruit drug dependent thugs from the city's most depressed areas who were later sent to the pro-Estrada rallies at the Edsa Shrine last week.

"These same hoodlums were among the mob that went on a destructive and bloody rampage at Mendiola on Labor Day," Joseph said.

He said the trio also provided the ralliers with food and water, while a known peddler of illegal drugs, whom he identified as "Kado 2-5," provided drugs.

A spokesman of the Binay family categorically denied that the Binay administration is involved with the pro-Estrada groups seeking to overthrow of the government nor is it linked with any criminal organization engaged in gambling, prostitution or drug peddling.

Joseph noted that a number of the prostitution dens are reportedly enjoying the protection of several officers of the Makati City police force.

The councilor said he is conducting an investigation of these reports. He said that if he finds evidence against any members of the police force, he would not hesitate to bring them to court.

GILBERT REMULLA

'I'll help small entrepreneurs'

By Remy M. Umerez

AT 30, Gilbert C. Remulla is the youngest candidate running for congressman in the second district of Cavite.

Pitted against two old timers, Remulla is not fazed by the challenge. After all, politics runs in his family. His father was a former governor and his brother John Victor is running for vice governor.

But the young Remulla admits that his father had tried to discourage him from entering politics. "But it was an option I had to take," he says. "Besides, the opportunity presented itself."

He was a promising broadcaster facing the cameras for "Ala Sinko y Media," "Moneywise," "The Weekend News" and "Balitang K" when he resigned from ABS-CBN.

"I used to deliver news by simply reporting them before the televiewers," he says. "Now, it is a totally different story. I am completely immersed in the reality of what is happening around me. It is totally a different and enriching experience."

REMULLA

Unlike other show biz candidates who merely rely on glamour and popularity, Remulla comes fully equipped for his political foray. He has an MA in International Affairs, concentrating on Media and Communication and East Asian Political Affairs, from the Columbia University in New York.

Remulla, who also had piano, guitar and voice lessons and was a resident actor of Repertory Philippines, also uses his entertainment skills when he campaigns.

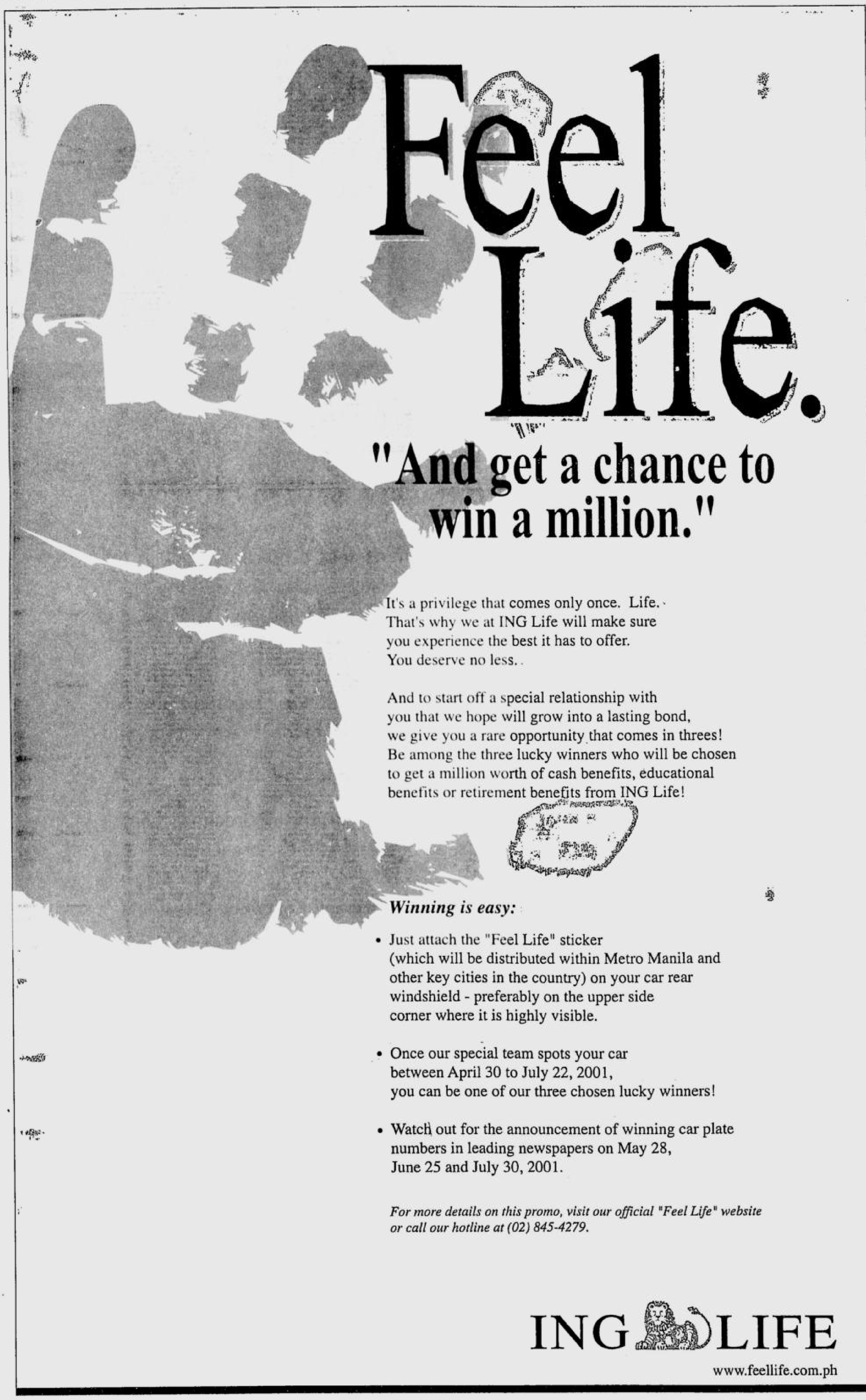
"When I sense that their speeches are beginning to bore the crowd, I get into my singing act with my brother. I have two songs ready, 'Harana' by Parokya ni Edgar and 'Fallin'. But someone suggested that I should change the last song with a more positive one."

Education, with emphasis on the use of computers and Internet technology, is among his top priorities.

Economic growth is another concern. Remulla also wants to assist small business entrepreneurs through micro financing.

He says he will ensure jobs for the jobless youths of Cavite through the Cavite Productivity Park (EPZA 2). He will also focus on health, housing, and fighting crime and drugs.

Remulla says the depressing thing about campaigning is when he sees so many people suffering the effects of extreme poverty. But the gratifying part, he says, is when they wave and smile at him and assure him of their vote.



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Onsite . . .

(From page A27)

city's huge garbage problem with the use of modern technology from abroad.

"Many international firms have proposed their own solutions but all of them backed out," he says. "Why? Because some people were asking too exorbitant kickback. We should avail ourselves of modern technology. Pero ang masama, hindi pa nagsisimula, binakalan na (The problem is, they start asking for kickback when work has not even started)."

He says he is now trying to invite back these firms and convince them to build a landfill or incinerator on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis. He will push for the eventual closure of the Payatas dumpsite, he adds.

The Clean Air Act should also be amended, he says. "It's impossible to implement. They are asking for a utopia. Even the UN (United Nations) allows incineration."

He wants to improve the health care services in the fourth district.

"When residents go to health centers at 11 a.m., the centers are not yet open," he notes. "When they get there around 4 p.m., the centers are already closed. And those who get there in time receive only prescriptions, not medicines."

Lagman wants the public works department to provide a master plan to clear the drainage system and improve the roads to prevent flooding in his district.

He is also proposing a scholarship fund for the needy who want to go to college and more day-care centers that will provide pre-grade school education for the children of the poor.

To fight the drug menace, he is proposing the creation of a drug rehabilitation center in the fourth district, which covers Project 4, Diliman, South Triangle, Cubao, Sikatuna Village, Anonas, Tatalon, and New Manila.

"There are so many parents who want their children to be cured but there is no viable rehabilitation center. There's one in Payatas but it's already full. Bicutan and Tagatay are too far."

He says the Quezon Institute is ready to provide a lot in its compound along E. Rodriguez Boulevard. All that is needed is the funding for the rehab center and Lagman says he is the right person to solve that problem.

"The sourcing of funds is not a problem," says Lagman, who was budget undersecretary during the Aquino administration and vice chair of the House appropriations committee. "I am an expert in sourcing of funds.

Lagman describes himself as "an alternative to those who have no experience or those who have mismanaged the city. I'm running because I would like to save the district from the dangerous propositions of the uninitiated and those who lack experience in Congress.

Besides Mathay, Lagman is facing former councilors Marcel Rillo, Bayani Hipol, and Nanette Daza in the contest for the congressional seat.

"After 14 years, where is Quezon City compared to Marikina, Mandaluyong and the other cities of Metro Manila?" he asks. "Where is Quezon City? The problems are still here. After 14 years, the same old problems have not been addressed.

Lagman is the official candidate of Aksyon Demokratiko, the party launched by his fellow Bicolano, Education Secretary Raul Roco.

Lagman says he has been a resident of Barangay South Triangle for four years and should not be considered as a political carpetbagger.

His daughter Krisel took his place as representative of the first congressional district of Albay.

"I have done my part for my old district," he says. "I would like to bring my record of performance to my new district.

"Vote one, take two," he adds, referring to himself and his daughter. "Fourth district 4 residents will have two congressmen looking after their welfare."

Lagman ran for the Senate in 1998 but he lost. He said he was a victim of dagdag-bawas (vote-shaving and -padding).

"The apprehension that force would be used during the elections is real," he says. "But we are prepared for any eventuality, including being cheated at the polls.

"I have been cheated when I ran in the Senate. I will not allow myself to be cheated again," he adds.

While he was part of the People Power II coalition that brought President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to power, Lagman says he did not lobby to get a portfolio in the executive department.

"I really wanted to run and get a mandate, not an appointment," he says.

He says he also has the support of Sanlakas, the Partido ng Manggagawa and other non-government organizations (NGOs).

While he considers Mathay his most formidable opponent, he says he has "broken (Mathay's) stranglehold" on his supposed political wards.

"I agree he's the man to beat but he can be beaten," Lagman says of Mathay. "Fourth district residents want a change in leadership.

"People know they have been taken for a ride for so many years. We are going to fight and I'm confident that I can win them over."

He is also banking on the large number of Bicolanos in the fourth district. Roco, who ran for president in 1998, won the most number of votes in the fourth district even though former President Estrada won overall in Quezon City.

Lagman says a third of the voters in the fourth district also voted for him in 1998 although he did not campaign personally in the district.

Graft raps vs Abalos unanswered

By Agnes E. Donato

MORE than a month after being ordered by the Ombudsman to answer the graft charges filed against him, Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos has yet to explain his alleged misuse of an estimated P1.8 billion in city funds.

The graft case was filed by the mayor's arch rival in the May 14 election, Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo Jr., in December 2000 based on a 1999 Commission on Audit report detailing the alleged fiscal mismanagement.

The INQUIRER tried to reach the mayor for his comment, but he was unavailable. But his father, former Mandaluyong mayor and now Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., questioned the motive behind the filing of the charges.

"That COA report has been there for so long already," the mayor's father said in a phone interview. "Why are they (Domingo camp) bringing it up only now, when the election is just a week away?"

Pelagio Apostol, director of the Evaluation and Preliminary Investigation Bureau of the Ombudsman, on March 23 ordered Abalos to answer the charges.

Domingo, in his affidavit, claimed that Abalos committed technical malversation of public funds. Also charged were city treasurer William Marcelino, city accountant Elmer Santos and other officials who allegedly obtained unwarranted benefits from the P1.8 billion.

Domingo said he filed the case even before the election period began.

He said the COA report could prove all his claims and that he filed the case as an ordinary taxpayer.

The COA report said Abalos failed to conduct a physical inventory of fixed assets worth P1.39 billion.

The city government also allegedly failed to reconcile a discrepancy of P169.27 million between the treasury and accounting records.

The failure of the city government to implement existing auditing and accounting rules also resulted in the accumulation of unliquidated cash advances totaling to P132.5 million, the COA said.

Abalos Sr. urged the Domingo camp to follow up the case with the Ombudsman, instead of pressuring his son to answer the charges.

"Obviously, all this is just for media mileage," Abalos said. "If they really want something to be done on the case, they should press the Ombudsman."

He said Domingo himself was facing charges before the Sandiganbayan for allegedly taking home office supplies before he resigned as city vice mayor in 1998.

"This happened during my term, but I did not press any charges against him because I knew it was election time then," the former mayor said. "All I am trying to say is that we should also ask who (Domingo) is."

GMA, DY VS POVERTY
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is accompanied by leading Pasay City congressional candidate Connie Dy during a recent visit to the President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo-Connie Dy Poverty Alleviation Center, which is celebrating its first anniversary tomorrow, May 8. The center, located at 40 Dominguez St. in Malibay district, provides services to Pasay residents, particularly the poor. At right is Dy's husband, businessman Joey Dy.

Santos calls for vigilance

PDP-Laban-Kaibigan mayoral candidate Ricardo "Ding" Santos urged residents of Pasay City as well as religious and non-government organizations to be vigilant to ensure the sanctity of votes.

Santos made his call following persistent reports of a well-crafted plan of his political opponents to cheat in the May 14 elections.

"Reports reaching us revealed a discreet plan of my opponents to use fraud along with their guns, goons and gold in the coming polls," Santos said.

Santos said the 10,000-strong Pasay City Unified Youth, the Kababaihan and the Kabalikat ng Kaibigan Inc. pledged all-out support for the conduct of clean and honest elections. Their entire membership will be deployed in various precincts in the city to guard against cheating, he said.

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Delos Angeles to work for exemptions

CELSO "Boy Seseng" delos Angeles Jr., an independent candidate for representative of Marikina City's lone congressional district, says he will work for the enactment of legislative measures that will allow exemptions in the payment of capital gains and estate-inheritance taxes.

But he points out that only the sale or transfer of property valued at P500,000 and below should be covered by the exemption.

He says a one-time exemption from the payment of capital gains tax for senior citizens should also be included to help ease the burdens particularly of those who require medical care.

He says the exemption from the estate-inheritance tax should apply only to estates or properties left by deceased persons valued at P1 million and below.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, May 7, 2001
4th Week of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 11:1-18**
Gospel: **Jn 10:1-10**

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Truly, I say to you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. But the shepherd of the sheep enters by the gate. The keeper opens the gate to him and the sheep hear his voice; he calls each of his sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them and the sheep follow him for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, rather they will run away from him because they don't recognize a stranger's voice."

Jesus used this comparison, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, I am the gate of the sheep. All who came were thieves and robbers, and the sheep did not hear them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved; he will go in and out freely and find food.

The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I have come that they may have life, life in all its fullness."

May 7 Monday – commentary

Jesus offers a metaphor that is crystal clear. It is an indictment of the exploitative and domineering manner of exercising authority. A true shepherd knows the ways of one's flock and vice versa. He cares for them all and is interested in them not simply for the advantages and profit that will accrue to him from them. Again, the metaphor shows what God's reign in Jesus is all about. It is God's unconditional love for his people, especially for those who are put at the margins of life and society and even of the church. Are you instrumental in the exploitation and marginalization of people, or in their development and inclusion?

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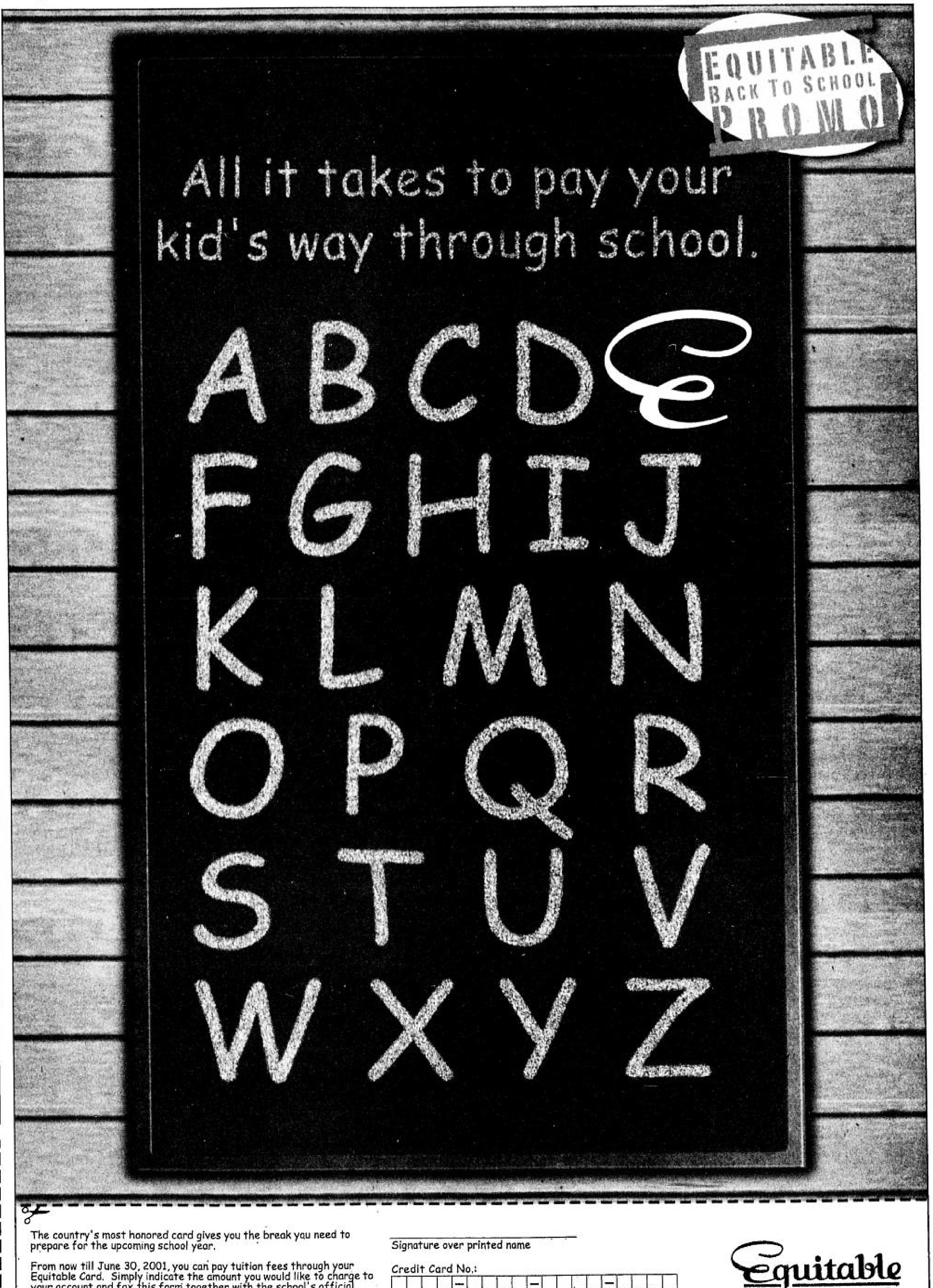
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8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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4	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
7	DTS	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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5	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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9	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
10	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

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3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA

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2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
6	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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7	SUGAR AND SPICE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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7 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
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2	BALIKTARAN
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5	EXIT WOUNDS
6	INIT SA DUGO

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	EXIT WOUNDS
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2 (DTS)	HALIK NG SIRENA
3 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BALIKTARAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	EXIT WOUNDS
4 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BALIKTARAN
5	SWEET NOVEMBER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	THEY NEST
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	THE SEDUCER

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511 9736

1	EXIT WOUNDS
2	BALIKTARAN
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BALIKTARAN
2 (DTS)	HALIK NG SERENA

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BALIKTARAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BALIKTARAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	MADERASO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	ABAKADA...INA
3	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Berma
tel 879 2168

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXTREME WARRIOR

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	HALIK NG SIRENA
2	BALIKTARAN
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BALIKTARAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	ANTI-TRUST
4 (DTS EX)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

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Jaya at Captain's Bar

ANOTHER diva takes on the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental Manila. Full of fire, soul, passion and emotion, Jaya is this month's featured artist in "Crossover Presents," May 10, Thursday.

Jaya will perform with Mel Villena on sax, Bobby Taylo on bass, Ric Mercado on guitar and Roy Mercado on drums, under the musical direction of Gerard Salonga.

Fresh from the raves of her stint in "Crossover Presents" at The Venue in Davao, the undisputed Queen of Soul" is back in town to regale audiences with a repertoire of crossover classics, smooth contemporary jazz and R&B hits.

Joining Jaya for "Crossover Presents" are the inimitable Jon Santos and The Opera.

Listen to 105.1 Crossover to get free invites to the presentation or call Ticketworld at 891-5610 or Captain's Bar at 750-8888 for ticket inquiries.

The special show is presented by Bayfresh Haven and Shell-Citibank Mastercard, with Gentxt from Globe Handyphone and Philip Morris Lights. It is supported in part by Bailey's Irish Cream, Cocolife, Magnolia Ice Tee and Nido Full Cream.

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1. EXIT WOUNDS
2. THE MEXICAN
3. SAY IT ISN'T SO
4. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5. HALIK NG SIRENA
6. SUGAR AND SPICE
7. RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

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2. SUGAR AND SPICE
3. HALIK NG SIRENA
4. SAY IT ISN'T SO
5. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6. RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. THE NEST
2. DOUBLE TAKE
3. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4. THE MEXICAN
5. THE GIFT
6. ABAKADA...INA

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	HALIK NG SIRENA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALIKTARAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SUGAR & SPICE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	EXIT WOUNDS
MIRAMAR	VIRGIN WIFE/TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	EXIT WOUNDS
ODEON-2	EXTREME WARRIOR
ROBEN	BALIKTARAN
TANDEM-1	ALIW MATAMIS NA LASON
TANDEM-2	EVANGELINE 14
TIMES	HANNIBAL - WAY OF GUN

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	HALIK NG SIRENA
QUEZON-1	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR-2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

CUBAO

OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79, 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-2	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-3	HALIK NG SIRENA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	EXTREME WARRIORS
CINEMA-6	ABAKADA...INA
CINEMA-7	INIT NG DUGO
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-12	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-14	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-15	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-2	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-3	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-4	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-5	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN

Duets with Freddie Aguilar

FREDDIE Aguilar continues to conquer the music industry by unceasingly producing new songs that would fit the listening ears of the Filipino masses.

Ka Freddie's latest beat is "Duets with Freddie Aguilar."

The new album features the folk singer's daughter Maegan Aguilar in a duet in "Bahay Namin."

Aguilar sings with new talent Antonette Martinez in "Sinta Ko" and "Hulog ng Langit," and Shiela Mercado in "Hindi Magbabago."

Ka Freddie also duets with famous artists such as Sampaguita, Lolita Carbon, Coritha and Nora Aunor.

"Duets with Freddie Aguilar" is produced by Freddie himself, manufactured and distributed by Concorde Records.

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EXIT WOUNDS
(R-18 RT-1:40)
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DMX
Isaiah Washington

May 7 - Monday
6:20 PM - Exit Wounds
8:30 PM - Exit Wounds
10:40 PM - Exit Wounds

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KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

PEOPLE who like to read popular literature ask me all the time if I've read any good books lately. Depending on my workload, I try to devour 23 books a week. I read before falling asleep, and if it's a lazy weekend, I can read straight though the entire afternoon.

Since I could barely sleep Sunday and Monday nights because of all the unrest and paranoid texts about coup plots, I finished **Dean Koontz**'s "From the Corner of His Eye" which I had started Saturday.

It was rather voluminous at 622 pages, but it was difficult to put down. Most importantly, unlike the earlier works of Koontz which were mainly frightfests, this book, although still populated by characters with supernatural powers and an antihero of inexplicable evil, celebrates the love of a family. It later on extends to our ability to create extended families based on love, mutual comfort-giving, and innate kindness of our hearts.

Late Saturday afternoon, my son **Josh** and his *yaya* **Anna** thought I was going crazy. I was unabashedly crying at the scenes describing the days before the eye surgery of 3-year-old **Bartholomew Lampion**, which will remove his eyes because of the cancer that is threatening to spread to his brain.

The conversations of Barty and his mom in the last days leading to the surgery are so powerful in the rawness of their emotions as well as their rapt absorption of the beauty of ordinary things that we take for granted.

This book isn't for skeptics. You have to believe in miracles to appreciate the plot twists. I loved the style of writing, and although I'm normally daunted by books that are more than 400 pages, the pages of "From the Corner of His Eye" just flew by.

***

My brother-in-law **Dodo** and my sister **Viel** asked me to try out Café Breizh de Boracay located in Libis.

They had first tried the original branch of this restaurant last month while on vacation with their kids in Boracay. I got to try the Bacolod branch of Café Breizh two weeks ago. The Libis branch is located in the same complex as Acropolis Doctors, where my niece **Jia**'s pediatrician holds clinic.

They've been eating there at least twice a week and they were starting to worry because, although the food is delicious, Dodo and Viel felt the café was not getting the crowd it deserved because of all the other eateries nearby. They aren't investors in the place, just fans of the cuisine, hence their request for me to try it out and write about it if I enjoyed it as much as they do.

I went there for dessert Friday night. The place is cozily lit and decorated. The prices are reasonable, the service is efficient, the music is relaxing. And we thoroughly appreciated our crepes (I had the banana with nutella combination).

Very good recommendation from my sister and brother-in-law, I have to say.

***

I have been receiving a major drubbing from some tabloid columnists in particular because of the change in the time slot, effective today, of "Balitang Kris" from 5:30 to 5 p.m.

The truth is, we haven't rated as high as we had hoped, but contrary to the claims of the other network's publicity machinery, we haven't been knocked out in the ratings by "Extra! Extra!" In fact, for the week of April 22-28, based on the Mega Manila survey, we did a 15, with a nearly 50 percent overall audience share, as opposed to the other show's 10.

Rating 33.4 percent higher than your main competitor in any book isn't being beaten, don't you think?

Simply put, having 1 out of every 2 television sets tuned to your program is a laudable achievement, considering that all other stations (free and cable) divide the rest of the remaining TVs turned on at that time period.

This last rating of "Balitang Kris" is consistent with the level of "Balitang K," my predecessor, post-impeachment trial coverage. (Please note that "Balitang K" was preempted by the impeachment trial coverage from Dec. 7, 2000 until Jan. 16, 2001, except during the Christmas hiatus.)

Every show has an incubation period. An entertainment personality such as myself needs time to be accepted by the audience in a different milieu. We are finally hitting our stride with the right combination of stories, out of town features, celebrity interviews, discussions of national issues, and humorous pieces.

Now I feel confident that we will continue to improve in our presentations and my spiels delivery will become more relaxed yet authoritative in the coming weeks.

The one thing I can claim credit for is the strong advertising support that "Balitang Kris" has received. I am grateful for this because to stay on the air, a show needs two major components: high ratings and high ad revenues.

So to those souls who can't wait for my untimely doom, I say: "Sorry, I've proven time and again that I'm a survivor, and I am in it for the long haul."

'Star' mentality on the TV news

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LOCAL TV news culture is unfairly slanted in favor of the anchorpersons of our major channels' newscasts, some of whom have acquired a superstar status of sorts.

We deem this unfair because, truth to tell, most TV news anchors simply read the news, which is covered and written up by reporters and field personnel.

In our view, reporters, cameramen, producers and directors of news programs are more worthy of the public's admiration than some of our news anchors, since they do more than just looking credible as they mouth the news.

So, why is the viewing public so impressed with news anchors? We attribute this to our "star" mentality. Just like we admire movie stars who play lead roles in films, we (mistakenly) think that anchors are the "stars" of the TV news, so we treat them as such.

We need to be reminded that, on TV newscasts, there are no stars, just reporters and news readers. So, we shouldn't delude ourselves into thinking that anchors are responsible for the content of newscasts.

They're simply the frontliners who give a credible face and voice to what the entire news team has come up with.

To be fair, we must admit that good anchors are more than just news readers. They help give a newscast its identity, and they come up with brief on-the-spot interviews with the newsmakers of the day.

But mediocre anchors can be embarrassments in this regard. It quickly becomes clear that they don't have a real understanding of the ramifications of a news event, so all they can come up with are stock questions, to which their interviewees give similarly standard replies.

In addition, some anchors' questions make field reporters look incompetent, as though they can't come up with the questions the anchors ask. The truth, of course, is the opposite: some reporters understand news events better because they're the ones who actually cover them.

So, why do the anchors get to ask the most "important" questions? Because, if they didn't, how would they be able to rationalize the hefty paycheck they get just for looking and sounding good?

Of course, the really good anchors earn every peso they make, because they give a news show its unique character, and they infuse it with their insights into the news and the people who make things happen in this country.

But these competent anchors are a rare breed, and many more just content themselves with looking good and sounding slick.

Which is why we're reminding viewers that, when it comes to the TV news, we have to train ourselves to see the difference between real achievement and the ersatz variety.

'Pearl Harbor'

PEARL Harbor is very much on TV and in the movies these days, almost 60 years after it was bombed to within an inch of its life by Japanese planes, triggering the start of World War Two.

The new war epic, "Pearl Harbor," focuses on the life-changing events of Dec. 7, 1941 and the war's devastating impact on two daring, young pilots (**Ben Affleck** and **Josh Hartnett**) and a beautiful, dedicated nurse (**Kate Beckinsale**).

On TV, the National Geographic Channel presents "Pearl Harbor: Legacy of the Attack," at 9 p.m., on May 27. It tells the story of the young men and women, both American and Japanese, who were involved in the attack, and how their lives were changed forever.

US servicemen, now in their late '70s, join a Japanese survivor and return to Pearl Harbor to recall what happened on that fateful morning.

Using underwater technology, Dr. **Robert Ballard** searches for a missing Japanese mini-sub on the ocean floor, while historian **Stephen Ambrose** brings a historical perspective to the important event.

MAKI Pulido

MICHAEL Fajatin

GMA 7 reporters turn news subjects

WHILE many woke up to the news of chaos unfolding by the minute like a real-life documentary on the first of May, the men and women of GMA News and Public Affairs were up and about straight from the night before, out to get the story despite the dangers that lay ahead.

The whole nation saw how things nearly turned tragic for GMA 7 reporters who became news stories themselves as they get and deliver the news.

Jiggy Manicad was hit in the head with a rock hurled by a protester.

Michael Fajatin catches a stabber's blade with his bare hands.

Maki Pulido wounded her foot while dodging rocks and broken bottles in Mendiola.

These are just some the horror stories faced by the GMA reporters. Yet, through it all, they delivered the news first.

GMA was the first to air live footage of the dispersal of the loyalists in Mendiola and the first to report live from Fort Sto. Domingo, as soon as Estrada was transferred there.

The network was the first to air the names in the hold-departure order for alleged coup plotters, as well as the corresponding reactions of Jun Ponce-Enrile, JV Ejercito and all others in the said list.

GMA was also the first to air the retaking of the Edsa shrine and the first to get Malacañang's official statement on what happened.

Be it Edsa II or the Mendiola siege, the valiant men and women of GMA News and Public Affairs were there and delivered the news first, accurately and fairly—injuries and all notwithstanding.

ELEMENTS SETS PARTY MOOD IN DAVAO

The high-energy pop group Elements is now performing at the Summit of Royal Mandaya Hotel in Davao. Until May 15, vocalists Drizzle, Divo and Raj will jumpstart evenings down South with a full repertoire of the latest pop hits and chart-toppers from today's hottest artists. With tunes from Jennifer Lopez, Juice, EWF, TLC, Phil Collins and Will Smith, coupled with some livewire, funky dance moves of their own, Elements will surely get the Davao crowd up on their feet and moving. Elements will be back in Manila for special shows at Suburbia in Malate, May 19 and 26, and at Arts Venue on May 24 and 31.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SUGAR & SPICE - P 18 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:50	RECESS - G 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	EXIT WOUNDS - R 18 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
SAY IT ISN'T SO - P 13 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST - P13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	THE MEXICAN - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Hallmark Channel pays tribute to women

HALLMARK Channel presents Women's Week, May 7-14, a TV festival showcasing women of various forms and creeds, their common factor being that they led rich and inspiring lives. The festival is timed with Mother's Day on May 13 and is complemented by a special tribute to two outstanding Filipino women in media.

Six movies and a series are featured in the festival, spanning a gamut of conflicts, conditions and seasons.

The biggest salvo is the big event premiere of "Jackie, Ethel, Joan: Women of Camelot," May 13. It's a take on the Kennedy women, unarguably the most controversial family of 20th century America. The drama builds to a steady crescendo that follows the fortunes of the three women who married into American royalty and lived in the glory and glare of politics' highest rank.

The "Camelot" years taught different lessons to each one of them. But whether dealing with their husbands' blatant infidelities, smiling on the campaign trail or enhancing the family's legacy of raising their children, the Kennedy wives did it all with unquestioned grace, style and dignity.

Actors Jill Hennessy, Lauren Holly and Leslie Stefanson turn in excellent performances as the women in the title role.

May 12, one of the highest rated shows on US TV debuts on the Hallmark Channel. In "Touched by an Angel," Roma Downey is the thoroughly modern angel Monica, who is sent down to earth to help those finding themselves at the crossroads of their lives. Every week, her mentor Tess and friend Andrew join her in her inspiring adventures.

Airing May 7 at 9 p.m. is "Women of Windsor," which explores the devastating impact that living in the spotlight had upon the lives of Sarah Ferguson and the late Princess Diana.

The quirky romance "Cupid and Cate," showing May 8, presents an interesting love story that also delves into the intricacies of family relationships.

Showing May 9 is "True Women," a sweeping saga of love, war and adventure. It chronicles the story of three extraordinary women as they settle in the American frontier.

May 10 presents "Love is Strange," starring Kate Nelligan and Ron Silver in an endearing tale of love and forgiveness. In the story, a respectable woman judge learns she has cancer, breaks the news to her family and as the disease progresses, rekindles a love affair with her ex-husband.

May 11, followers of the TV series Christy are in for a treat with "Christy: Return to Cutter Gap," a two-hour special that takes off as the heroine makes a trip back to her old community in her twilight years, reminisces about the fascinating old times and tries to preserve the legacy of the people and families who lived there.

Hallmark Channel's Women's Week festival is also anchored on a special tribute that will be given to two Filipinas of exemplary achievement in their careers in media.

Hallmark Channel associate director for marketing Anna Lee will honor media personalities Sharon Cuneta and Laurice Guillen with a citation today, May 7 at the Ayala Museum in Makati. The awarding will precede a special showing of "Jackie, Ethel, Joan: Women of Camelot," for women's organizations.

Hallmark Channel is the global cable TV channel brand showcasing highquality, award-winning original movies and miniseries to over 32 million homes worldwide. It is owned and operated by Crown Media International Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Crown Media Holdings Inc.

The channel is seen on Home Cable, SKYCable, Destiny Cable and other cable TV providers nationwide.

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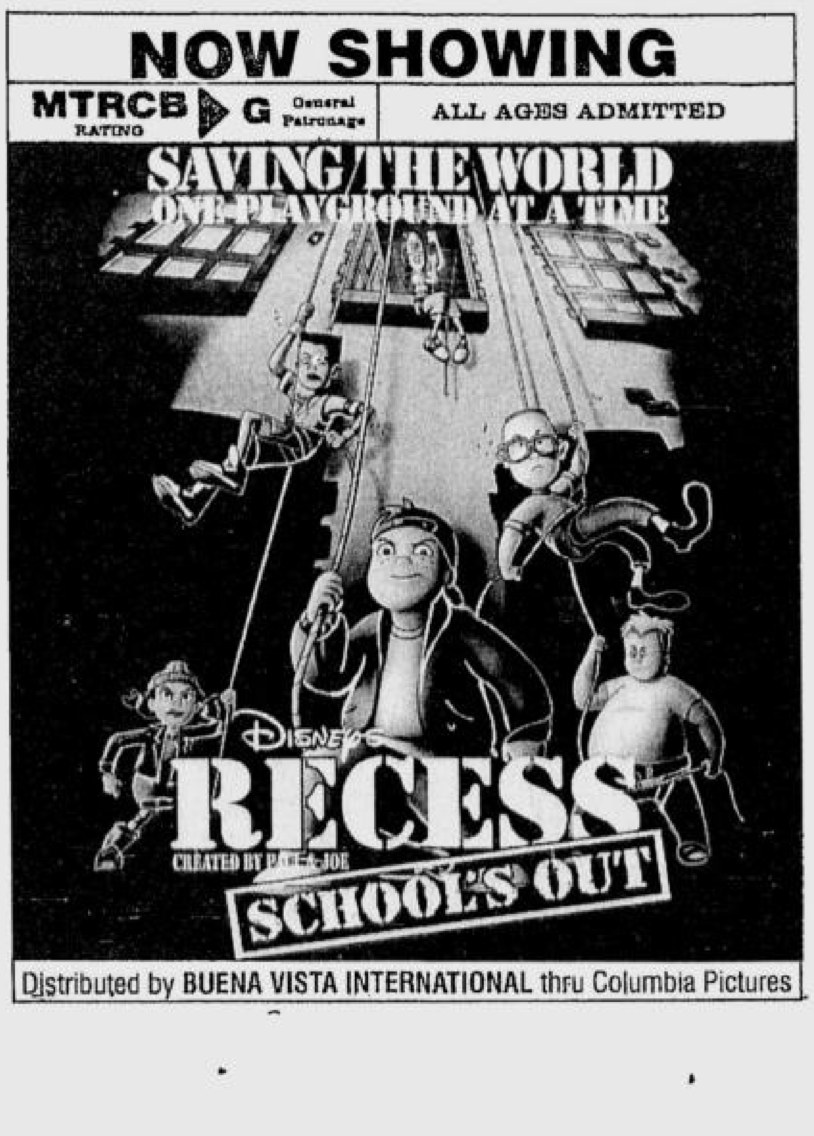
Set in a small community in the Alps, the tortured body of an elite university librarian is found in the a mountain height only known to an alpinist. Another body is then found in the ice of another glacier. A local policeman and an expert commissary from Paris work the case. Based on a novel by Jean-Christophe Grangé.
Critically aplauded by different award giving bodies in France.
Language: French w/ English Subtitles



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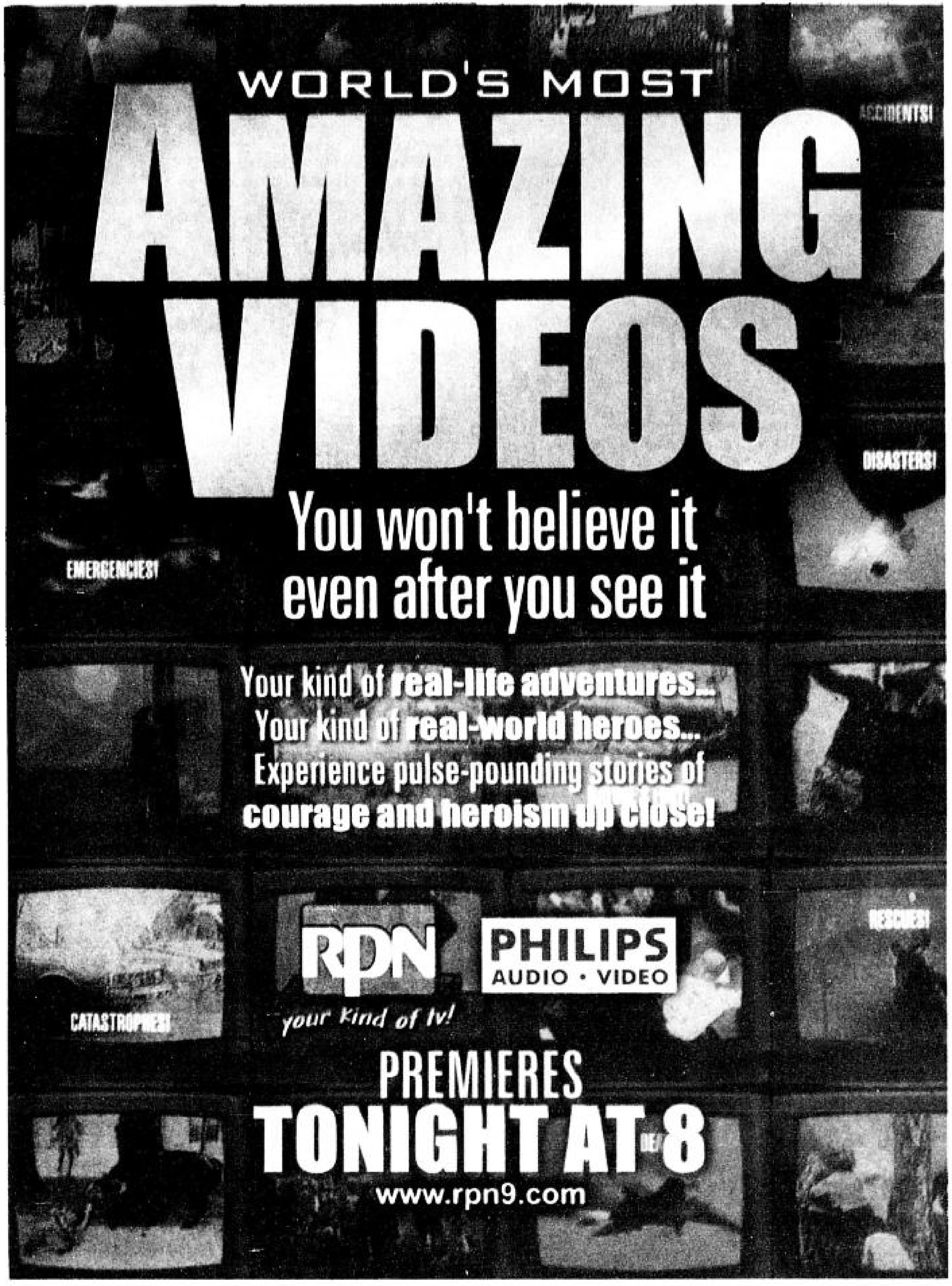
RICKY DAVAO
ANA CAPRI
and
CARLO AQUINO
minsan may isang
puso
Directed By JOSE JAVIER REYES (DGPI)
A REGAL ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTATION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"TALK Asia," a new hour-long show featuring celebrity interviews, topical discussion and personal insight focusing on Asia's leading business, political and entertainment personalities, debuts May 17 on CNN International.

Hosted by Dalton Tanonaka, one of Asia's most respected and trusted TV journalists, the new show will provide revealing interviews with the region's newsmakers.

Aired on Thursdays, 9 p.m., the program will also invite audience interaction from around the Asia-Pacific via phone, e-mail and instant messaging.

Drawing on CNN's worldwide satellite network, "Talk Asia" will connect with personalities from across the spectrum of Asian interest; leaders from the fields of politics, business, literature and entertainment.

The one-hour show will emphasize conversation over confrontation, an opportunity to chat with the people helping define Asia in the 21st century.

Tanonaka, who joined CNN International in May last year, has covered many major news stories and interviewed numerous leading personalities from both the political and entertainment arena, including Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung and Chinese pop singer Coco Lee.

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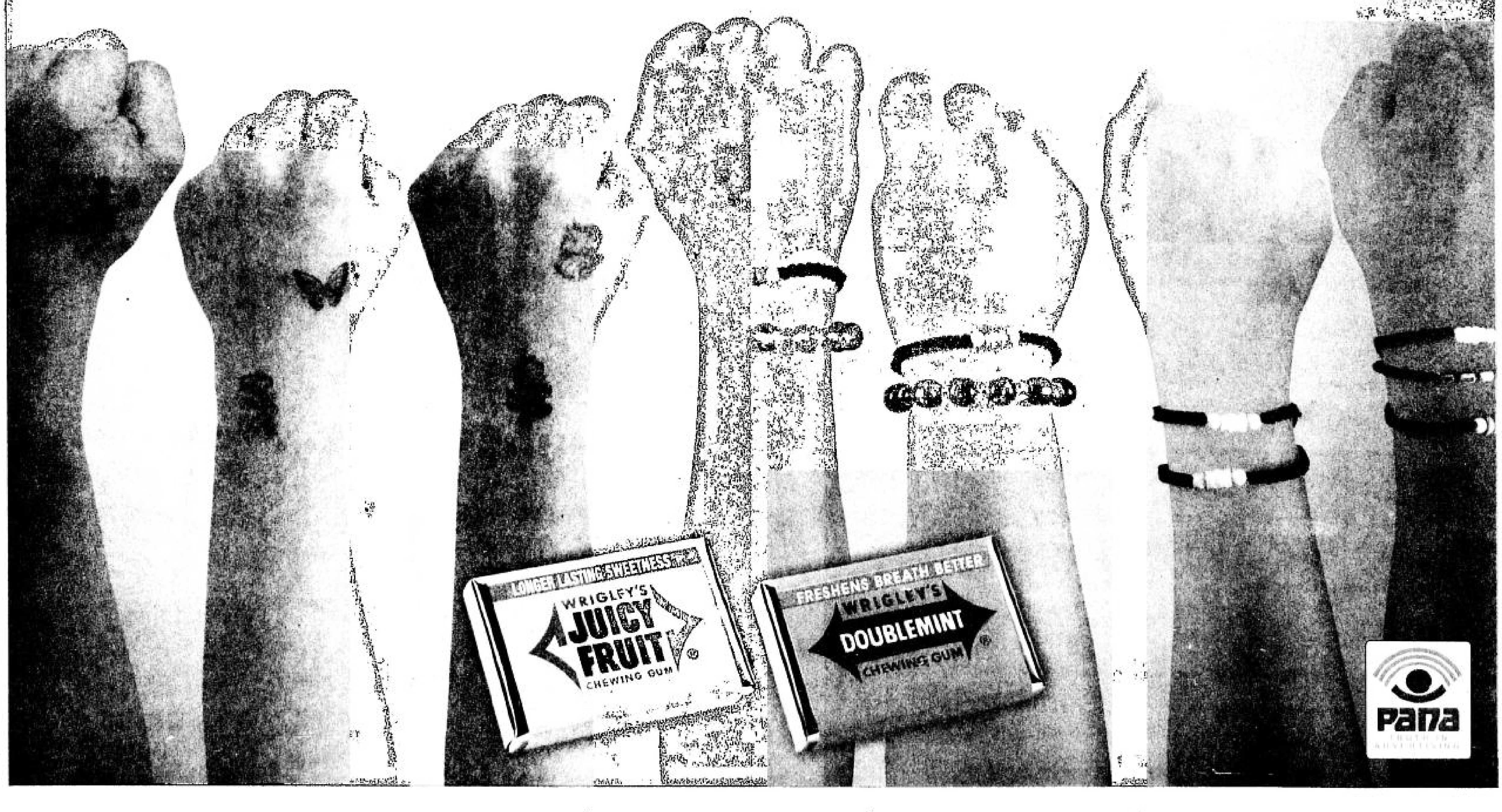
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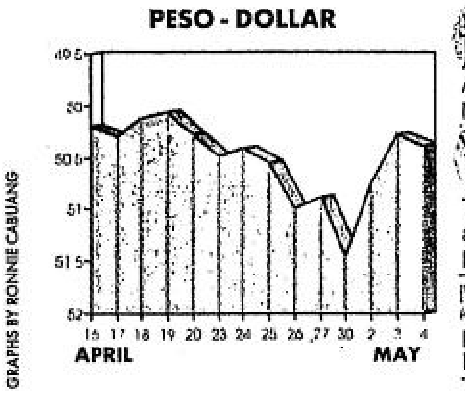


Peso-Dollar Rate

P 50.38 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 4, 2001

¥ 121.41 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 121.41 as of 5 p.m., May 4, 2001

GOLD:$265.90/266.40 per ounce Hong Kong, May 4, 2001

STOCK MARKET

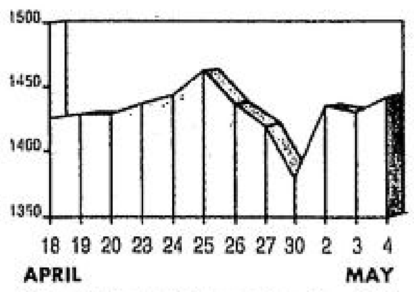
Lackluster trading seen

LACKLUSTER trading is expected this week as investors await the results of the national elections and the US Federal Open Market Committee meeting next week.

Analysts also expect thin volumes as most

LACKLUSTER/ B5

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Bangko Sentral favors gov't takeover of PNB

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE CONVERSION to equity of a P15-billion loan extended by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to Philippine National Bank would restore the government's control of the bank.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the loan conversion would bring government equity in PNB back to 51 percent and bring Lucio Tan back to a minority position.

Buenaventura added that a "reverse privatization" had been approved by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and that the government need not worry that the two multilateral agencies would raise concerns on a possibility that PNB would again be owned by the government.

"This is not going to be a problem with the IMF and World Bank for as long as the government would commit that down the road it would still privatize PNB once it has become more attractive to investors," the BSP chief explained.

The government had been diluted to only 16 percent in PNB from 30.4 percent while the taipan now has a "super majority" control of the country's sixth largest bank with a 67-percent stake.

The government's basis for a "renationalization" of PNB is anchored on the fact that two of its institutions had extended a P25-billion loan to the bank, an amount that was more than double the P10-billion equity that Tan pumped into the bank last September.

The Department of Finance is studying a plan to regain control of PNB as the prospects of a successful joint sale with the taipan becomes dimmer given its worsening finances and growing level of non-performing loans.

Buenaventura said that while the joint sale remained the best scenario, a conversion of PNB's debts into equity was the next best option.

Before the government could convert PNB's P15-billion debt from BSP into equity, it would have to work out an arrangement to buy the loan from the central bank.

State-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. also extended a P10-billion loan to PNB last October. But PNB would swap non-performing loans of the government to settle its debts with PDIC.

Buenaventura said the BSP expects to be paid either in bonds or government securities.

Tan would have to take the backseat once the government has regained 51 percent.

"The arrangement would give Tan an opportunity to recover his losses. The government also has to put in a new management," Buenaventura said.

A re-nationalization of PNB, he said, would also facilitate the bank's rehabilitation.

"The government taking control is a preferred alternative next to a joint sale. But if the joint sale is not doable, a reverse privatization is the next best scenario," said the central bank governor.

Government officials admitted that hopes have dimmed for a successful joint sale of the government's and Tan's stake in the bank specially after PNB announced a P5.97-billion net loss last year from an earlier estimate of only P1 billion in losses.

PNB pointed out, however, that last year's losses were 57 percent less compared to the previous year's P13.85 billion. The bank even revised its 1999 net loss from an earlier reported figure of P9.87 billion.

A bank analyst said that converting these debts into equity in PNB and reclaiming the stake that the government had lost appeared to be a wiser alternative at this point when the bank's financial health rules out an attractive pricing for its sale.

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Investments surged 112% in 1st 100 days

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INVESTMENTS monitored by the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority continued to pour during the first 100 days of the Macapagal administration as business confidence builds up with a more credible chief of state in Malacañang.

BOI- and Peza-registered investments soared 112 percent to P38.374 billion from Jan. 20 to April 20 this year from P18.273 billion during the same period last year.

BOI managing head Vincent Perez said even the failed siege by the pro-Estrada mob of Malacañang in the early morning of Labor Day was unlikely to alter the investment uptrend.

Perez described the incident as a "blip" as foreign investors were generally impressed with how President Macapagal handled her most serious crisis. He said the arrest of Estrada has underscored the "seriousness" of this administration to serve justice. He said the only remaining hurdle in the near term for the government is the coming elections.

In President Macapagal's first 100 days, the BOI registered P27.044 billion worth of investments, up 184 percent from P9.51 billion during the same period last year.

The BOI approved a total of 57 projects which are expected to create 7,144 new jobs. Eight out of 10 projects were located outside Metro Manila.

The Peza reported that its investments during the period climbed 33.4 percent to P11.69 billion from P8.76 billion a year ago. The Peza approved 52 projects which are expected to generate 10,079 jobs.

The BOI and Peza investment tally did not include the $300-million investment by Philip Morris to put up a new cigarette factory in Batangas. The cigarette giant is planning to install state-of-the-art equipment from Europe and the United States. The project is expected to boost the quality and volume of trade of leaf dealers in La Union and Ilocos Sur.

BOI investments plunged to a 12-year low of P40 billion last year as investors avoided the Philippines due to a lack of confidence in the Estrada administration, which was overthrown on Jan. 20 this year. Last year, Peza investments soared 101 percent to P74.056 billion from P36.819 billion in 1999.

PCGG sees Danding victory in San Miguel as temporary

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SAN Miguel chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. may have repulsed government efforts to unseat him in Thursday's annual stockholders' meeting, but the Presidential Commission on Good Government insists that this was just a temporary setback.

One of the five PCGG nominees to the San Miguel board told the INQUIRER that the results of the proxy voting clearly showed that the government, along with the Government Service and Insurance System and Social Security System, could have taken eight of the 15 board seats had they been allowed to vote the 27-percent interest owned by the Coconut Industry Investment Fund. The results also showed that the GSIS could have named a second nominee to the board.

Based on the votes garnered, Cojuangco apparently junked the five Estrada cronies led by Estrada brother-in-law Raul de Guzman and Iñigo Zobel in the elections as the six garnered only 1.159 billion votes. This was meant to secure the tenure of Cojuangco, his brother Manuel, his right hand man Ramon S. Ang, his lawyer Estelito P. Mendoza, and San Miguel beer division president Faustino Galang who all garnered an average of 2.7 billion votes.

The source said that Cojuangco's lawyers were apparently gearing for the possibility of the Supreme Court handing out a ruling within the year allowing the government to continue voting the CIIF shares.

The source said a favorable high court ruling for the government would mean that five PCGG nominees and the GSIS could replace six directors of San Miguel based on their vote tally in the elections. In this case, Zobel and the five Estrada cronies would have to give way to the PCGG and GSIS nominees.

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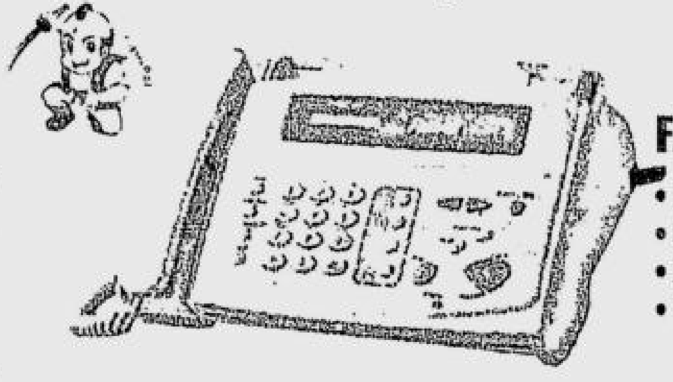

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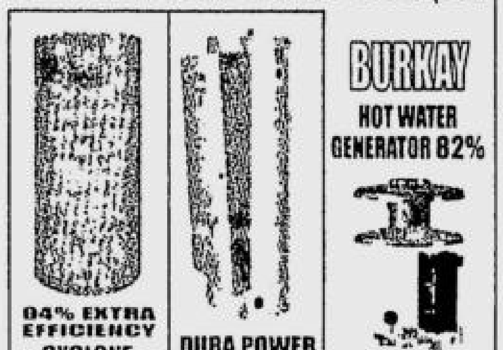

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LOGISTICS UNIT

SMC puts up P5-B subsidiary

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. has incorporated a P5-billion company to jumpstart its grand plan to catapult the conglomerate into an Asean logistics and distribution powerhouse.

SMC vice chair Ramon Ang said the company, called Logistics Co., was still in the process of being set up.

The logistics firm, however, was one of the SMC investments questioned during last week's stockholders' meeting. Lawyer Lorna Kapunan, the corporate secretary of Anscor Holdings, asked for an explanation why SMC would embark on such a non-core business.

Ang said that while the strategy was on the table, SMC has yet to spend a single centavo on the venture. "We are just in the process of negotiating joint ventures or lease (contracts) with several property and port owners all over the country."

The plan was to acquire a 400-hectare agro-industrial and ecological estate south of Metro Manila to house world-class port facilities. The integration of various production facilities in one complex aims to facilitate seamless operation and optimize synergies across SMC's core businesses and thus improve its cost-competitiveness. The entire complex was earlier estimated to cost between P8 billion and P10 billion to develop.

"It will be really good for the company. Imagine that you'll trade goods and, for instance, bring corn from General Santos in Mindanao to Manila. Going back there, you'll bring beer, hard liquor and Coca Cola," Ang explained.

Ang also defended other non-core investments raised by Kapunan, such as the purchase of an investment house, Grand Asia Capital Corp., which the lawyer warned might put SMC in the same risk as when the retirement funds for its employees were placed in Urban Bank.

There were other investments noted by the independent shareholders seen as allied with the government, thus raising concerns on transparency issues.

The other investments questioned by the minority shareholders were:

- A five-year A$28-million sponsorship of the Australian Jockey Club which management justified as a marketing and promotion expense similar to SMC's sponsorship of a soccer team in China;
- The formation of an SMC philharmonic orchestra and choral group, which would require P100 million in seed money and at least P100 million annually over the next five years. Management explained that the intention was only for P100 million in seed capital and not the subsequent annual contributions. SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco promised to review the specific resolution.
- The purchase of an aircraft company that is now a wholly owned SMC subsidiary from which is leased two corporate jets and two helicopters for the use of SMC officials and outside clients. The meeting minutes stated the investment involved nearly US$10 million. SMC said this was done merely to replace older aircraft formerly owned by SMC and sold for safety reasons.
- The purchase of 3 percent of the company's outstanding stock under the premise of a share buy-back but were not retired as treasury shares.

PCGG . . .

(From page B2)

board, the government can then name a new chair and take over management control of the company. The source said it was just a matter of time before the government secures its control of San Miguel and prevent the alleged dissipation of assets under Cojuangco.

Thursday's elections had the lowest number of votes cast in San Miguel's annual meeting in the last few years. Only 84 percent of the shareholders voted as most of the investors chose to stay neutral in the proxy fight for control of San Miguel for fear of either getting the ire of Cojuangco or the government.

The source said that based on the ownership structure of San Miguel, Cojuangco maximized the use of the shares he bought back (3 percent) and the share held by the company's retirement fund (7 percent) to further boost the ballots cast in favor of his selected nominees. These shares are normally voted equitably among management's directors.

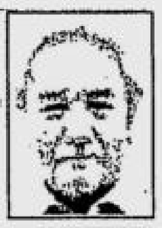
The PCGG had been hoping to use the 27-percent CIIF shares in the company to elect a new set of nominees on the board, namely: former Social Security System administrator Renato Valencia, former Far East Bank president Octavio V. Espiritu, former Justice Hector L. Hofileña, retired Major Gen. Leo Alvez and Franklin G. Fuentebella.

The PCGG had petitioned the Supreme Court to stop Thursday's stockholders' meeting and force management to open the nomination for the elections. San Miguel management claimed that under the company's by-laws, nominations should be in before Jan. 20, 2001, the same day that jailed former President Joseph Estrada left Malacañang and President Macapagal was sworn into office. Cojuangco expectedly named the five Estrada cronies among his nominees on the board.

The source admitted that the government was pressed for time in its bid to re-assert its control of the majority interest in San Miguel. However, the PCGG is optimistic that they would be allowed by the high court to vote the CIIF shares and kick out the Estrada nominees from the board based on its ruling allowing Cojuangco to vote the sequestered 20-percent interest in San Miguel while the issue on its ownership has not yet been resolved. The PCGG, which is claiming that the 20-percent interest being claimed by Cojuangco is ill gotten, has been voting the CIIF shares since 1986.

Vote PARP! (Part 2)

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



Honesto C. General

THERE are 162 party-list candidates. You can choose only one. Which do you pick?

You can go through a process of elimination. Scratch those who you think are Communist fronts (they are easiest to pick: they are the noisy ones). How can you vote for all those acronyms that you cannot decode? Why pick those that are obviously not marginalized groups. If you have any doubt at all, throw the name away.

Then you will come across the one candidate, the name of which will tell you exactly what it stands for, the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP).

Besides, PARP knows exactly what to do when it wins the maximum three seats in Congress. Take a look at the 10-point legislative program PARP has drawn up.

- **SSS reform.** PARP will seek to amend the Social Security Act of 1977 (Republic Act 8282) so as to align benefits to the current needs of members, especially retirees. PARP holds that the present average monthly pension of P2,640, being 65 percent below minimum wage, is totally unacceptable. Funds, being owned by members, shall be kept under lock and key, beyond the clutches of greedy politicians.
- **GSIS reform.** PARP will seek to amend the Government Service Insurance System of 1977 (Republic Act 8291) to align benefits to the current needs of members, especially retirees. PARP holds that GSIS is owned by government employees who should be the sole beneficiaries. As in SSS, funds should be kept under lock and key, beyond the grasp of greedy politicians.
- **Philhealth reform.** PARP will seek total implementation benefits program in the National Health Insurance Act, especially the program for indigents.
- **Senior Citizens Law reform.** PARP will rewrite the Senior Citizens Law that makes beggars of senior citizens and the ID card as a begging bowl. PARP wants to regain the dignity and self-respect of our elderly.
- **Veterans benefits reform.** PARP will work for the implementation of the P700 monthly pension for veterans who have reached age 70. This law was signed in 1994 but never funded.
- **Overseas workers benefits reform.** PARP believes that government victimizes our overseas workers and will seek to rationalize existing benefits programs.
- **Labor Code reform.** PARP will clean the Labor Code of all bias against the older employee. For one, PARP will make illegal compulsory retirement by reason of age.
- **Armed Forces retirement program reform.** PARP will seek to codify the AFP Retirement Program, especially the rules of investment of soldiers' funds, now being managed by the Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS).
- **Retirees' hospital wards.** PARP will work for the installation of retirees or geriatric wards in all government hospitals.
- **Tax exemptions.** PARP will work for the tax exemptions for retirees. For example, interest earnings on savings bank accounts (now taxed at 20 percent) should be tax-free. Also, a retiree's family home should be exempt from real estate tax.

One of the most cherished values of Filipino culture is respect for elders. After a lifetime of hard work, the *lolo* and the *lola* are placed on a family pedestal. Adored and respected, the old folks wait out their remaining years in the tender and loving care of their grown-up sons and daughters. The old folks cannot help it—they spoil their grandchildren.

But outside the family circle, the elderly finds himself a second-class citizen. He sees the world pass him by and feels adrift. The government pays him little attention. Programs meant to help him actually strip him of his dignity and self-respect.

PARP will change all that. But PARP can do little unless its gets its three party-list representatives into the House of Representatives.

So, on May 14, whether you are a retiree, or about to retire, or still actively employed, when you come to the slot in the ballot where you make your choice for party-list candidate, write out the four-letter word: PARP.

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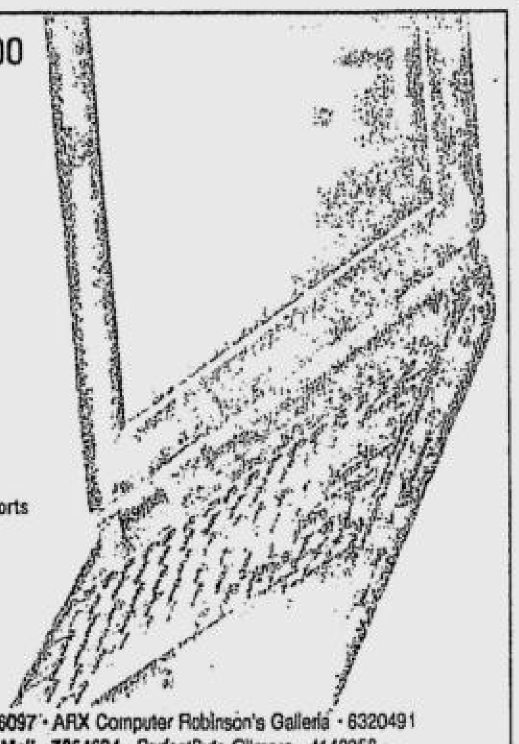

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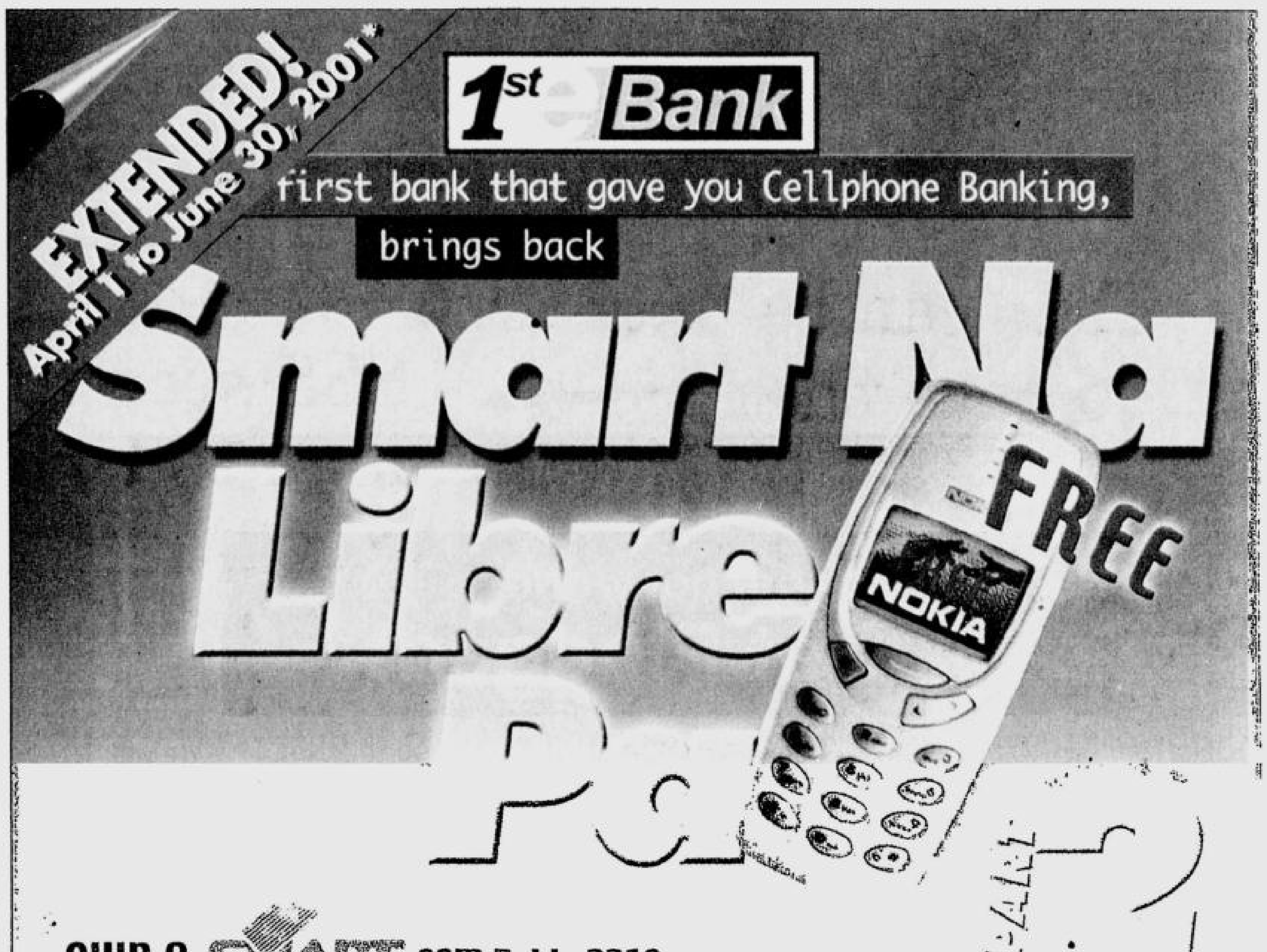
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Urban Bank story: Using other people's money

BY RAUL C. DANCEL

(First of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

ON April 26 last year, one of Philippine banking's success stories came to an abrupt end. It took less than 30 minutes to shut down a bank that had been in business for close to two decades. In less than 30 minutes, some 14,000 depositors found themselves unable to use their ATMs, and around 550 employees found their jobs suddenly hanging at a time when they desperately needed tuition money. In less than 30 minutes, the story of a bank that started in obscurity, rose to become one of the country's top lenders, and crashed in a manner that stunned everyone, began to unravel. This is the story of Urban Bank Inc.

The story cannot be told in black and white—there are too many gray areas—but it does offer a certain perspective of how banks in this country are being run and how the government regulates them. It is about a bank that fell on hard times, and the efforts of its owners to keep it afloat through any means necessary, even if they had to bend some rules. It tells of the government's efforts to shut the bank down for not playing with the rules, although some continue to argue that the central bank moved with undue haste and prejudice. It reveals one character rarely seen among bankers and financial regulators: that behind the nice suits and polite manners, they can be very, very ruthless.

Complex tale

"My story is very long, and it's very, very complicated," says former Urban Bank president Teodoro D. Borlongan, the man at the center of the storm. He's right. The central bank has a three-inch thick file on Urban Bank, and Borlongan and company probably have just as much, maybe even thicker. Go to any newspaper's website and key in "Urban Bank," and you'd probably end up with close to a thousand "hits." There's one website dedicated exclusively to telling one side of the story, and white papers written by both sides abound.

With so much information, it is, therefore, difficult to find out the entire truth about what really happened to Urban Bank. Although most of the facts and events aren't disputed and are now part of court and congressional records— the fact, for instance, that Urban Bank acquired over P4 billion worth of loans from Urbancorp Investment Inc.—interpretations vary, and recollections tend to be very different. The owners of Urban Bank refer to this transfer of loans as "financial intermediation." The central bank calls it illegally bailing out a bleeding investment house using deposits placed in a healthy bank.

Done in haste?

One central question from which everything else branches out is: "Did the central bank move with undue haste and prejudice when it shut down Urban Bank on April 26, 2000?"

"It was not a spur of the moment act," Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Norberto Nazareno said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had been monitoring Urban Bank since August 1998, when it downgraded from a universal bank to a commercial bank because it was unable to raise its capital to P3.5 billion.

One way banks are classified is according to the size of their capital. Small banks—referred to as thrift and rural banks—are those with a capital of P2 million to P20 million for rural banks and P250 million for thrift banks in Metro Manila. Medium-sized banks—called "regular commercial banks,"—are capitalized at P2.4 billion, while big banks—referred to as "expanded commercial" or "universal" banks—are required to maintain a minimum capital of P4.5 billion.

The BSP had been aggressively raising its capital requirements since Congress approved a law that allowed the entry of foreign banks in 1994. The aim was to strengthen the local banking industry by encouraging weak banks—those with insufficient capital—to merge with stronger banks. This way, they could compete better with foreign banks, which had more financial muscle and networks that crisscrossed the globe.

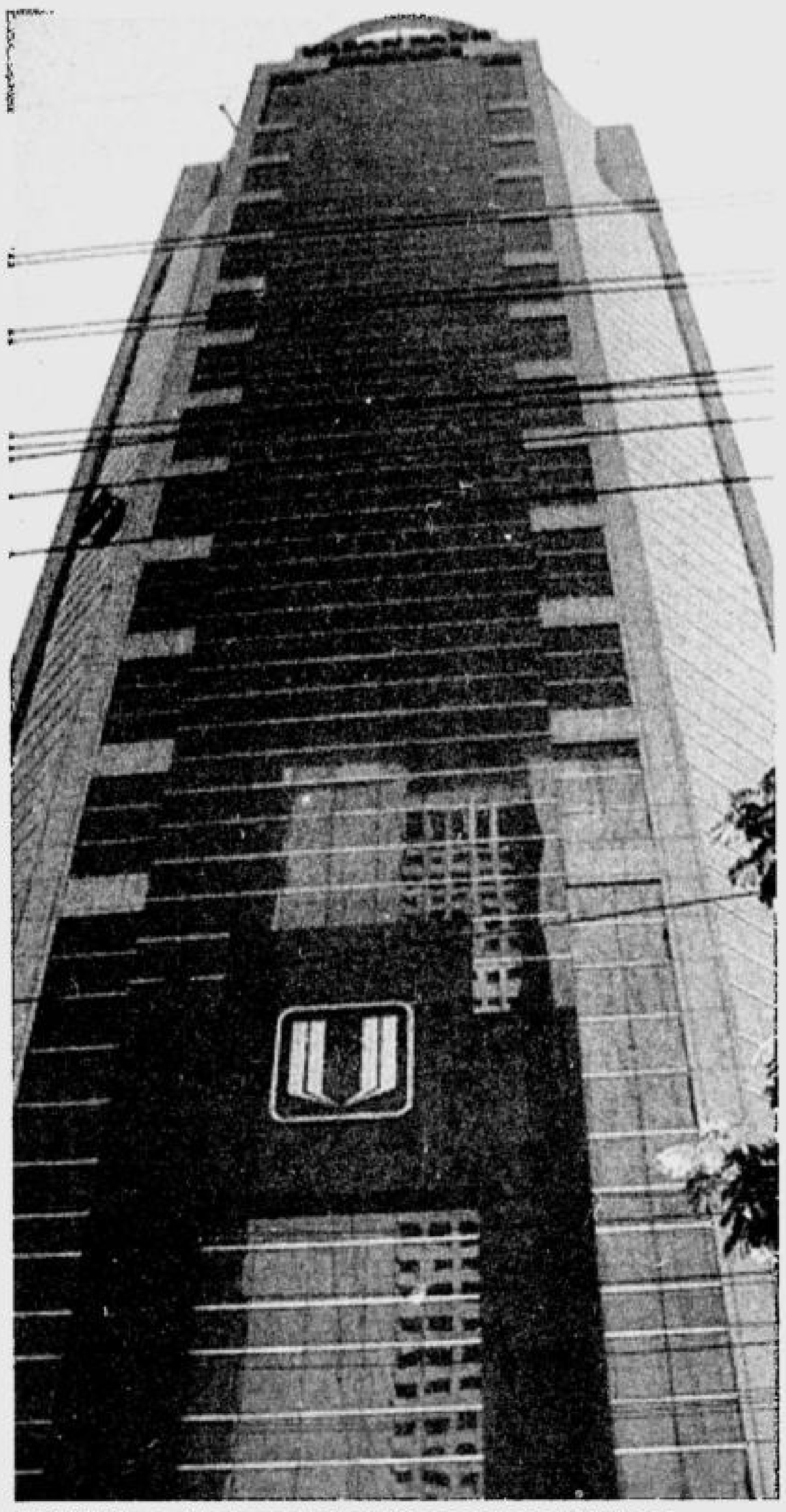
Turning point

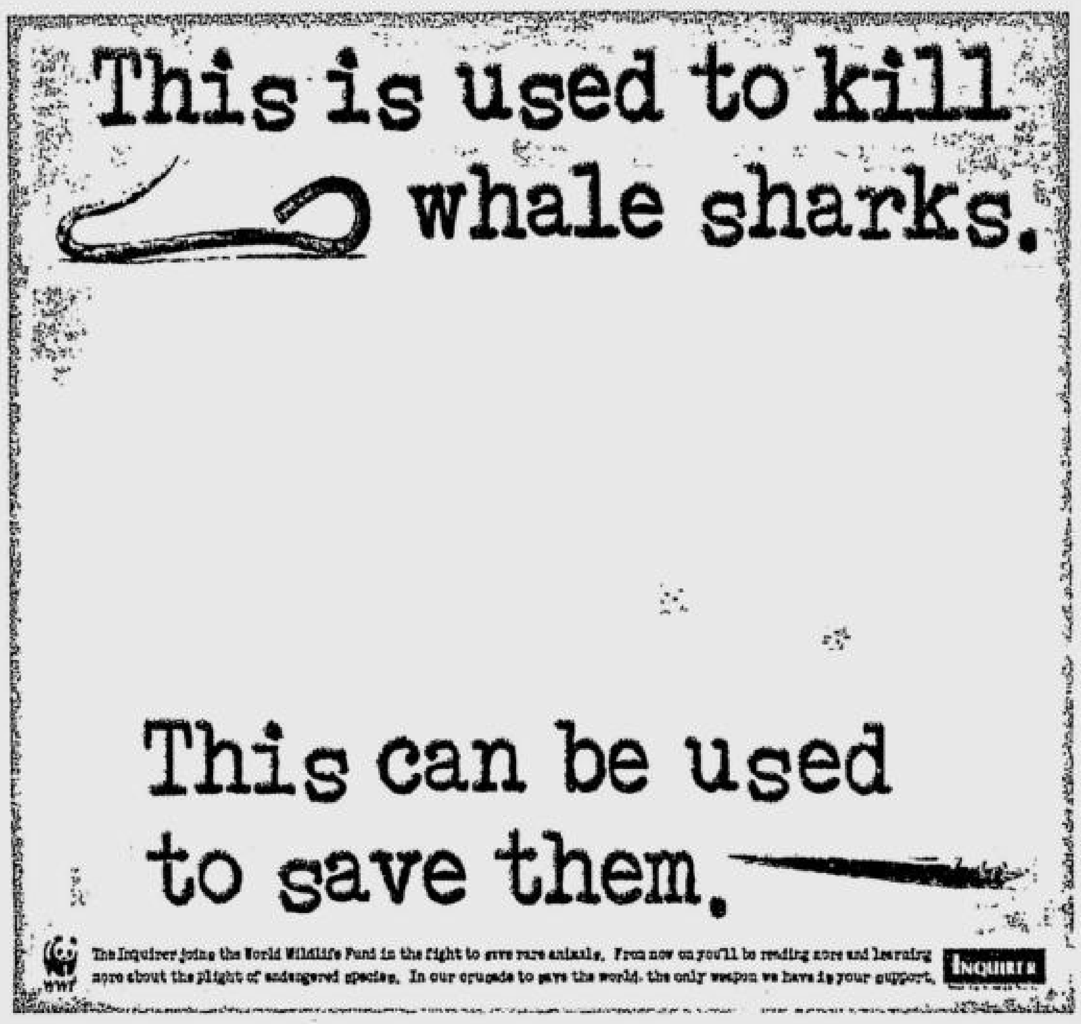
In the case of Urban Bank, the bank went—some say ambitiously—for a universal banking license. It couldn't keep its capital above P3.5 billion, which was then the capital requirement for universal banks. So in August 1998, it decided to surrender its license as a universal bank and become, instead, a regular commercial bank. That caught the central bank's attention.

A turning point was when Urban Bank, still unable to meet the capital requirement for regular commercial banks, decided to convert itself into a holding company in March last year. Central bank officials said even as a regular commercial bank, Urban Bank was still capital-deficient by about P250 million as of January last year, hence the decision to surrender its license as a commercial bank and become a holding company.

On March 9 last year, Urban Bank chair-

URBAN/ B8


URBAN Plaza: A testament to how things can go terribly wrong.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WWF INQUIRER

SSS seen to approve ₱600-M loan to Urban Bank buyer

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SOCIAL Security System is inclined to approve this week a P600-million loan to Export and Industry Bank for the rehabilitation of Urban Bank Inc., SSS chair Vitaliano Nañagas II said..

In an interview, Nañagas said the loan would be a secured three-year convertible loan to be extended to EIB once it merged with UBI and its affiliate Urbancorp Investment Inc. before the end of the year. The merger is in line with the proposed rehabilitation plan pending with the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

"The SSS has some P290 million in investments in UBI. That one will have to be solved in the manner applied to all other shareholders. We're trying to recover that by putting in the extra P600 million," the SSS chief said.

Last month, EIB and the National Association of UBI and UII Depositors and Creditors submitted to the PDIC, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the UBI and UII's receivers their joint-rehabilitation proposal.

Under the proposed plan, EIB would merge with the 28-branch UBI before the end of the year to create a new bank with a projected capital base of P6 billion.

The proposed rehabilitation plan calls for the conversion of at least 10 percent of the deposits and placements with UBI and UII or at least P1.25 billion prior to the merger of UBI and EIB.

EIB will also make an initial capital infusion of P300 million into UBI to revive the bank and bring its equity base to P3.7 billion.

UBI, a publicly listed company, would be the surviving entity but the name of the bank would be changed to Export and Industry Bank.

The merged bank is projected to have a capital base of P6 billion.

The final terms and conditions of the proposed plan will be subject to the approval of the board and shareholders of EIB as well as the depositor and creditor members of NAUD.

PDIC has given EIB and NAUD up to May 15 to get the approval of San Miguel Corp., Petron Corp. and Manila Electric Co. for the plan.

Bank of Commerce, which earlier withdrew its proposal to rehabilitate UBI and UII, said it was willing to revive its proposal or file a better offer in case the NAUD-EIB deal fails.

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Course	Start Date	End Date	Time
CREATIVE PRODUCER TRACK			
FUNDAMENTALS *Preparing for iNet Certification* *HTML* *Adobe Photoshop*	April 30, 2001	May 17, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
ENTRY *DHTML* *Macromedia Fireworks* *Macromedia Dreamweaver*	April 30, 2001 May 21, 2001	May 17, 2001 June 6, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm 8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
INTERMEDIATE *Macromedia Flash* *Macromedia Flash Advanced* *Macromedia Shockwave Director*	April 30, 2001 May 21, 2001	May 18, 2001 June 7, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm 8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
E-COMMERCE DEVELOPMENT TRACK (JAVA)			
FUNDAMENTALS *Preparing for iNet Certification* *Program Logic Formulation* *Building Web Document Using HTML*	April 30, 2001	May 16, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
ENTRY *Javascript Programming* *Java Programming for Beginners* *Migrating to Object-Oriented Programming with Java Technology*	April 30, 2001 May 21, 2001	May 30, 2001 June 20, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm 8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
INTERMEDIATE *Java Programming* *Object-Oriented Analysis and Design for Java Technology*	May 7, 2001 June 4, 2001	May 18, 2001 July 2, 2001	8:30 to 5:30 8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
E-COMMERCE DEVELOPMENT TRACK (MICROSOFT)			
FUNDAMENTALS *Preparing for iNet Certification* *Program Logic Formulation* *Building Web Document Using HTML*	April 30, 2001	May 16, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
ENTRY *Mastering MS VB 6.0 Fundamentals* *Mastering MS VB 6.0 Development* *Implementing Dbase Design on MS SQL Server 7.0*	May 21, 2001	July 2, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
NETWORKING TRACK			
FUNDAMENTALS *Introduction to Networking* *Introduction to LAN*	May 10, 2001	May 22, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm
ENTRY *Introduction to WAN Architecture* *Introduction to TCP/IP Concepts and Practices*	May 28, 2001	June 8, 2001	8:30 - 12:30/1:30 - 5:30/6 - 10pm

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Rice production enough to meet this year's demand

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture said the country would have adequate supply of rice for the whole year and that no additional importation would be needed the rest of the year.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, in a report to the President, said the projection was based on the recent assessment and evaluation of the country's palay/rice situation and outlook for crop year 2000 to 2001 by the Inter-Agency Committee on Rice and Corn.

Montemayor said he did not recommend to the President any new rice importation other than the 300,000 metric tons imported by the National Food Authority in the first quarter.

A survey conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics as of April showed that palay output in the first semester of the year would reach 5.59 million metric tons as production in the first quarter hit 2.82 million MT.

Although the production level would be lower by 1.5 percent compared to year-ago level, the BAS said supply would still meet the domestic requirement for the entire year estimated at more than 10 million MT.

The decline in the first quarter rice production was due to delays in the plantings in Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon. The BAS said too much rainfall during the period disrupted the normal cropping cycle in these areas.

CDOs vs 7 firms made permanent

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has made permanent the cease-and-desist orders slapped against seven companies allegedly involved in securities fraud through pyramiding schemes or "boiler room" operations.

The Commission En Banc, in a resolution, last week asked the concerned companies to show cause why their licenses should not be revoked. These companies are Barclays Group Inc. and/or New World Financial Group Ltd., Bradshaw Global Asset Management Inc., Newport Pacific Securities and Management Inc., Sherman Brothers Management Ltd. Inc. and Worldwide Investors Management Inc.

SEC officials alleged that these companies were linked to the group of Amador Pastrana. The SEC earlier filed a complaint before the Department of Justice against this group in connection with defunct Dukes & Co. Securities Corp.

The officials said that the five companies were allegedly involved in so-called boiler room operations. These operations involve the employment of tele-marketers and foreigners who, as unregistered brokers, use high pressure sales techniques and promises of exorbitant returns on investment to sell fraudulent securities overseas.

A boiler room operates with minimal legitimate business activities. This involves raising funds, which are pocketed by the principals and telemarketers in the form of commissions, costs and fees.

The SEC also made permanent its CDOs against Powerhomes Unlimited Corp. and Prosperity.com Inc. for their alleged involvement in pyramiding operations through the sale of unlicensed investment contracts.

In the case of Prosperity.com, the SEC has issued an order directing the company to show cause why it should not be cited in contempt for operating in defiance of the permanent CDO issued on April 4.

The Court of Appeals lifted early this year the temporary restraining order to stop the SEC from enforcing its CDO against Prosperity.com.

The SEC has also asked Powerhomes to show cause in 30 days why the company's license should not be revoked.

The SEC and the National Bureau of Investigation recently signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly go after perpetrators of securities fraud.

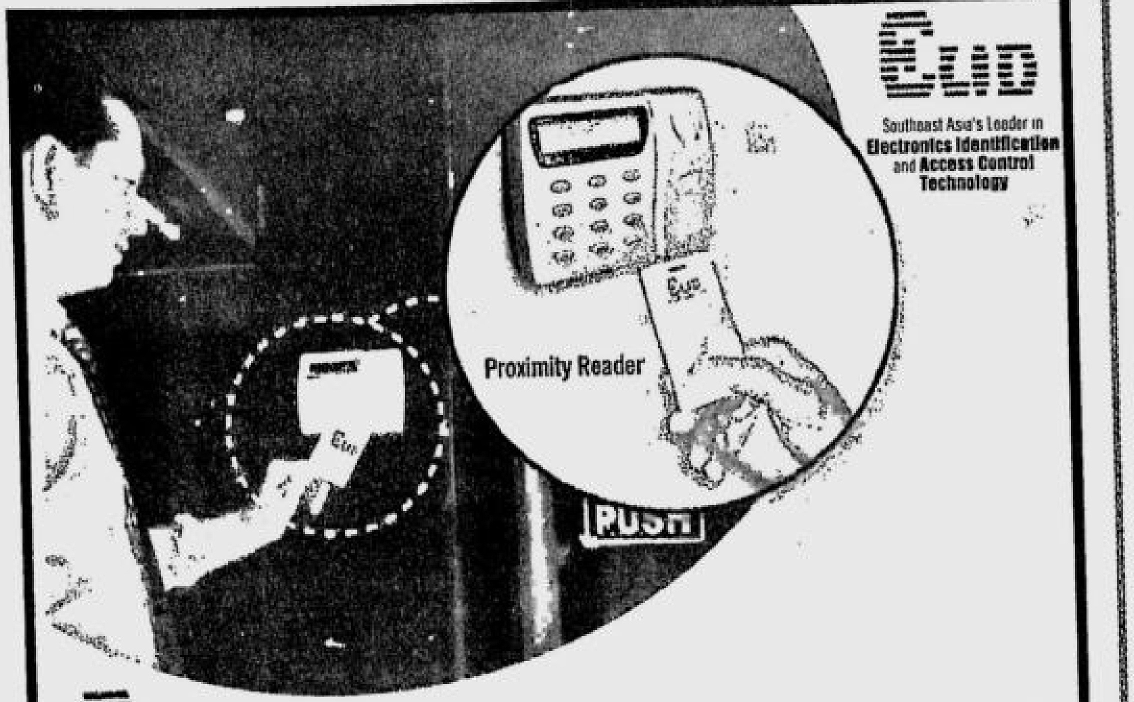
Lackluster . . .

(From page B1)

market players shy away from the market a week before these two much-awaited events.

However, some blue chips might be propped up by brave bargain-hunters who are ready to bet that the ruling party would be able to get majority seats in the Senate and Congress and thus ensure a smooth sailing for the Macapagal administration.

Malacañang is also set to lift its "State of Rebellion" order today, almost a week after the May 1 siege launched by supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada. Still, analysts said the market would still be vulnerable to any development on the political front, specially the crackdown on the suspected perpetrators of the Malacañang attack. *(See full story on Page B6.)*



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OUR TIME

Thin volumes seen as players await poll results, Fed move

By Doris C. Dumlao

VOLATILITY on thin volumes awaits local stocks this week as a cautious prelude to the nearing national elections and the next US Federal Open Market Committee meeting.

Most investors are expected to shy away from the market a week before these two much-awaited events. However, some blue chips might be propped up by brave bargain-hunters who are ready to bet that the ruling party would be able to get majority seats in the Senate and Congress and thus ensure a smooth sailing for the Macapagal administration.

Malacañang is also set to lift its "State of Rebellion" order today, almost a week after the May 1 siege launched by supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada. As such, analysts said the market would still be vulnerable to any development on the political front, specially the crackdown on the suspected perpetrators of the Malacañang attack.

MARKET PLAY

Last Friday, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed at 1,442.46 or 1.56 percent higher week-on-week after the fledgling administration successfully quelled the violent pro-Estrada protesters.

UOB Securities director for sales and research Ricky Trinidad said: "Generally, the market outlook is relatively good, but the institutional as well as the retail clients are a little bit cautious due to many wild cards."

Wild card

Trinidad said one such wild card was the possible backlash of the warrantless arrests being made by the government, which included some senators, as well as continuing jitters about the opposition, which had indicated some capability to muster a multitude of warm bodies to pro-Estrada mass actions.

"It is the week before the May 14 elections. There will be low volume and only the brave ones with hedge mentality will dare come in and take strategic positioning in first liners such as SM Prime and Ayala Land Inc. But by and large, the players will be cautious," Trinidad said.

He explained that the reality was that any president who was put to power not through direct balloting would encounter a rough sailing. Although Estrada's arrest should send strong signals that the government was not willing to tolerate wrongdoings, he said the new administration must be more "PR savvy" and be more conciliatory and sensitive to the needs of the poor who have strongly supported Estrada.

"The other side has so much to play with as Estrada was able to sell these people hope even if he has actually not been able to deliver," he said.

As such, he said President Macapagal's visit to the jailed Estrada was a good step in likewise reaching out to his supporters and preventing other forces from capitalizing on this mass support.

UOB head of research Raul Ruiz said he believed the market would trade on the downside this week, with immediate support at 1,410 and another at 1,370. He said the nearing elections could work both ways for the market.

"Either there will be those who'll decide to wait and see and those who will go bargain-hunting," he said.

Possible upside

KGI Securities head of securities Fitzgerald Aclan, on the other hand, said the market was waiting for the lifting of the State of Rebellion and what the courts would do about the arrests made last week.

With a support level at 1,400, Aclan said there was a possible upside this week assuming that there would no longer be violent disruptions. He also said local interest rates might have reached the bottom and that there was no longer much room to fall despite the expected cut in US Fed rates next week.

AB Capital Securities research head Jose Vistan agreed that there would be a lot of hesitation this week which would drag on until the results of the May 14 elections are out.

"There has been very little volume to add conviction to any rally or sell-off. We expect light turnover to persist until the May elections while the Phisix will stay within its tight consolidation range. In addition to volume, investors should also wait till the Phisix breaks out of its 200-day moving average, which stands now at the 1,480 level. A breach of that resistance will be an important bullish indicator. Support is still pegged at the 1,370 level."

Reynolds, SEC reach deal on fraud probe

By E.R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has closed its investigation into the alleged stock fraud manipulation of publicly listed Reynolds Philippines Corp. and the company's affiliates as it accepted a P500,000 settlement offered by five RPC and RPC affiliate officers.

The SEC had been investigating RPC and individual respondents Jorge Navarra of RPC/RPC Retirement Fund, Fernando Manotok of Profinda Holding Crop., Reina Lucena of Far East Network of Integrated Circuit, Jerome Cabaral of Reynolds Recycling Corp., and Francisco Betin of BPC Power Corp. for alleged stock price manipulation of RPC.

In a preliminary conference meeting last April 30, the individual respondents, in line with section 55 of the Securities Regulation Code, offered to settle the issue against them, without admitting any guilt or liability, by paying P100,000 each or a total sum of P500,000.

Under section 55, at any time during an investigation or proceeding, parties being investigated or charged may propose in writing an offer of settlement with the Commission, which may consider the offer based on timing, the nature of the investigation or proceeding and the public interest.

In an order dated May 2, the Commission en banc said it was closing the RPC investigation after finding that the proposed settlement was in the public interest and accepting it.

The SEC earlier said that the officers or employees of RPC or its subsidiaries appeared to have created an artificial market for RPC shares by way of wash sales and matched orders, manipulative schemes prohibited by the securities laws.

A wash sale involves the purchase and sale of securities that result in no change in beneficial ownership.

It was not clear, however, if the SEC would also stop pursuit of criminal charges and administrative charges against 10 member brokers of the Philippine Stock Exchange for involvement in the alleged RPC stock fraud.

An investigation conducted by the SEC upheld the earlier findings of the PSE that eight brokers—DBP Daiwa SB Capital Market Philippines, First Orient Securities Inc., Guild Securities Inc., Intra-Invest Securities Inc., Jaka Securities Corp., Magnum International Securities Inc., Mark Securities Corp. and UPCC Securities Corp.—acted as accessories to the alleged price manipulations of RPC shares.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, May 4, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	78	78	77	78	859,200
China Banking Corp.	655	660	655	660	180
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43	43.5	43	43.5	232,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	214	215	213	213	106,080
Prudential Bank	450	450	450	450	2,490
Philippine National Bank	44	44.5	44	44.5	41,900
Security Bank Corp.	18	18.25	18	18	321,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	44,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard, Inc.	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.48	189,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1255	1260	1255	1260	2,870
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1000	1025	1000	1020	27,280
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	40	39.5	40	16,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	2,220,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	690	685	685	650
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	110,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	36,000
Piltel	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	90,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	700	705	695	700	66,330
Ivantage Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	110,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.04	0.043	0.04	0.043	76,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41.5	42	41.5	42	25,500
Manila Electric Co. B	53	54	53	54	899,100
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.74	1.64	1.7	5,251,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.26	1.36	1.26	1.32	4,406,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.4	260,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	100,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.37	0.37	1,150,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	506,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	1.8	2.12	1.8	2.12	310,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.5	122,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30	30	30	30	104,600
RFM Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	1,430,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46	45.5	46	52,600
San Miguel Corp. B	50	51.5	50	50.5	687,700
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	129,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	210,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	845,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	120,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.5	12	12.25	2,200
A. Soriano Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	7,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.46	6,142,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	320,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.42	0.37	0.39	2,690,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.06	478,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22.75	23.75	22.75	23.75	110,300
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.25	2,430,000
Ipeople Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	120,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.78	0.77	0.77	390,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	2,060,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.55	0.59	0.55	0.58	2,280,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	860,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,230,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
Music Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	6,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	270,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	15	14.5	15	273,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.47	0.51	0.47	0.49	2,010,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.52	0.49	0.52	5,370,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0 53	0 53	0.53	0.53	450,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	39.5	40	39.5	39.5	46,900
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	40,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	5,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10	10	2,300
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	1,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	3,685,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	700,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,870,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.08	2.18	2.08	2.18	9,745,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.05	0.055	0.048	0.048	14,300,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	150,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7.1	6.9	7	3,145,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.1	0.1	0.095	0.095	5,100,000
Mining					
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.0038	7,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	150,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Oil					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.024	0.021	0.024	18,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	37,800,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	2,100,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,827,000	141,330,785.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	137,234,580	196,275,515.00
PRO	39,585,000	66,099,630.00
Mining	12,350,000	126,900.00
OIL	60,120,000	1,397,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	251,116,580	405,230,430.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	611.44	UP 0.51
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,964.22	UP 16.72
PRO	574.35	UP 2.52
Mining	1,147.49	DOWN 8.86
OIL	1.53	UP 0.07
All Shares Index	747.97	UP 8.08
Composite	1,442.46	UP 12.07

NO. OF ADVANCES: 50; NO. OF DECLINES: 14; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 102; NO. OF TRADES: 2,426

CURRENCIES

May 4, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.122839	1.000000	50.4590
Japan	Yen	0.009254	0.008242	0.4159
United Kingdom	Pound	1.613294	1.436800	72.4995
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143976	0.128225	6.4701
Switzerland	Franc	0.648440	0.577501	29.1401
Canada	Dollar	0.733163	0.652955	32.9475
Singapore	Dollar	0.617215	0.549692	27.7369
Australia	Dollar	0.585666	0.521594	26.3191
Bahrain	Dinar	2.978510	2.652661	133.8506
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299391	0.266638	13.4543
Brunei	Dollar	0.616436	0.548998	27.7019
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000090	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.024732	0.022026	1.1114
UAE	Dirham	0.305742	0.272294	13.7397
Korea	Won	0.000868	0.000773	0.0390
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.890600	44.9388
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.455357	22.9769
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135771	6.8509
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.404137	20.3923
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.064722	3.2658
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022077	1.1140
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000460	0.0232
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.149788	7.5582
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004442	0.2241
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005353	0.2701
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022077	1.1140
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.130829	57.0605

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Partial List	05/04/2001	Share Swapping: Please Call	
CLUBS	ASKED Price	CLUBS	BID Price
CC @ TAGAYTAY	490,000	ALABANG "A"/"B"	1.9M/2.0M
CALATAGAN	180,000	CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	430,000	CAPITOL HILLS	115,000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	550,000	CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000
FOREST HILLS "C"	450,000	CLUB FILIPINO	260,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	430,000	MANILA GOLF (INDIV.)	14,500,000
MT. MALARAYAT "A"/"C"	.50M/1.1M	MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	16,250,000
ORCHARD "A"	325,000	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,800,000
ORCHARD "B"/"C"	.60M/.65M	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	160,000
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85,000	MONTEMAR (INDIV.)	37,000
STA. ELENA "A"	2,100,000	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	225,000
SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	550,000	RIVIERA "A"	250,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	1,150,000	STA. ELENA "B"	2,200,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	925,000	VALLE VERDE	170,000

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	STA. ELENA "A"	80,000
EAGLE RIDGE	10,000	TAGAYTAY H'LANDS GOLF	65,000
MANILA GOLF (ASSIGNEE)	500,000/yr.	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	40,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	40,000	WACK WACK	100,000

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San Miguel Avenue,
Pasig City

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A"	-	1,930,000
Alabang Country Club "B"	2,100,000	-
Camp John Hay	320,000	-
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	130,000	-
Canyon Woods	-	350,000
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Club Filipino "A"	280,000	Pls. Call
Eagleridge "A"	Pls. Call	430,000
Eagleridge "B"	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest golf club "A"	110,000	150,000
Forest Hills	-	260,000
Fontana "D"	-	90,000
Makati Sports Club, Inc.	-	450,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)	14,000,000	-
Manila Polo	4,000,000	-
Manila Southwoods "A"	800,000	820,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	1,000,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"	-	450,000
Mt. Malarayat "Gold B"	450,000	550,000
Phil. Columbian	Pls. Call	90,000
Pueblo de Oro	-	380,000
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	700,000
Quezon City Sports Club	220,000	-
Riviera Golf	-	-
Royale Tagaytay	Pls. Call	130,000
Sherwoods "B"	-	390,000
Subic Bay Yacht Club	-	400,000
Tagaytay Country Club	Pls. Call	500,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	1,300,000
Tagaytay Midlands	850,000	-
Wack-Wack	-	11,000,000

*** OTHER SHARES AVAILABLE ***
PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE:

Lessor	
Alabang Country Club	45,000
Forest Hills	20,000
Manila Southwoods	60,000
Riviera	40,000
Tagaytay Highlands	60,000
Tagaytay Midlands	45,000

MAMAMAYAN MUNA
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GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of May 7, 2001

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	2,000,000	2,500,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	2,000,000	2,500,000
Baguio Country Club	800,000	850,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	115,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	150,000
Camp John Hay	350,000	450,000
Canlubang	850,000	1,000,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	125,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	2,000,000	2,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	210,000	Please Call
Club Filipino	250,000	300,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	200,000
Evercrest "A"	100,000	120,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	280,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	450,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	425,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	500,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	17,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	15,500,000
Manila Polo	4,000,000	4,400,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	800,000	830,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	900,000	1,000,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	150,000	180,000
Metropolitan Club "B"		230,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Ind./Corp.)	Please Call	Please Call
Montemar (Ind.)	-	40,000
Mt. Malarayat	-	400,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	280,000	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	380,000	400,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	550,000	-
Philippine Columbian	-	85,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	150,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	230,000	240,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	270,000
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	250,000
Sta Elena "A"	-	2,100,000
Sta Elena "B"	2,200,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corp.)	400,000	550,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Ind.)	-	300,000
Tagaytay Country Club	430,000	460,000
Tagaytay Highlands	-	1,200,000
Tagaytay Midlands	830,000	860,000
Valle Verde (Ind)	-	220,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	10,000,000	10,500,000

PLAYING RIGHTS
(Available Lessees)
Manila Golf 450,000

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	40,000	Mimosa Golf	20,000
Calatagan "A"	15,000	Orchard "A"	20,000
Canlubang	70,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	30,000	Sta. Elena	70,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	65,000
Manila Southwoods	50,000	Tivoli Royale	20,000
Makati Sports "A"	35,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	500,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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SELLING

Alabang A/B	2.2M
Baguio Country Club	820,000
Camp John Hay Golf	350,000
Celebrity	220,000
Club Filipino	300,000
Eagle Ridge A	430,000
Eagle Ridge B/C	Please call
Eastridge	220,000
Evercrest	110,000
Fontana D	90,000
Forest Hill "A" / B / C	255/280/450
Lusita & Punta Fuego	Please call
Manila Golf (Indv.)	Please call
Manila Golf (Cor)	17M
Manila Polo	4.060M
Manila Southwoods A/B	820/950
Makati Sports "B"	450,000
Mimosa Ind./Corp	Please call
Orchard "A"	295,000
Quezon City Sports	235,500
Riviera A / B / C	250/350/600
Royale Tagaytay	Please call
Sta Elena A	2.090M
Sta Elena B	2.1M
Subic	Please call
Tagaytay Midland	865,000
Tagaytay Highland Club	475,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	1,050,000
Valle Golf	350,000
Wack Wack	10.6M

BUYING:

Alabang A/B	2.150M/2.2M
Baguio Country Club	800,000
Camp John Hay Golf	350,000
Capitol Hills	130,000
Celebrity	210,000
Club Filipino	300,000
Eagle Ridge A	430,000
Manila Golf (Indv)	14.5M
Manila Golf (Cor)	16.8M
Manila Polo	4.0M
Manila Southwoods A / B	820/900
Makati Sports "B"	450,300
Orchard A/B/C	280/400/500
Quezon City Sports	225,000
Tagaytay Midland	860,000
Tagaytay Highland Club	450,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	1,050,000
Valle Verde CC	Please call
Valley Golf	330,000
Wack Wack	10.5M

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CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang A	Pls. Call	1,900,000
Alabang B	Pls. Call	2,100,000
Baguio CC	825,000	-
Capitol Hills	Pls. Call	120,000
Camp John Hay	-	325,000
Canyon Woods	400,000	-
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	330,000	
Eagleridge	450,000	Pls. Cal
Evercrest	130,000	-
Filipinas Golf	350,000	300,000
Fontana C	140,000	110,000
Fontana D	90,000	-
Forest Hills A	260,000	Pls. Call
Malarayat	550,000	
Manila Golf	Pls. Call	14,500,000
Manila Polo	-	3,000,000
Manila Southwoods A	850,000	800,000
Manila Southwoods B	950,000	900,000
Mimosa A	Pls. Call	200,000
Mimosa C2	300,000	-
Orchard	325,000	Pls. Call
Riviera	260,000	Pls. Call
Sta.Elena	2,200,000	Pls. Call
Subic Golf	310,000	-
Subic Yacht Club	450,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay CC	500,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Midlands	880,000	850,000
Tagaytay Highlands	1,100,000	Pls. Call
Tivoli Royale	230,000	-
Valle Verde	190,000	175,000
Wack-wack	10,500,000	10,000,000

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BUY/SELL COUNTRY CLUB SHARES
AS OF MAY 4, 2001

		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	2,200,000.00	-
2	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"		2,100,000.00
3	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	850,000.00	-
4	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	110,000.00	-
5	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	120,000.00
6	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB	500,000.00	-
7	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	please call	
8	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	500,000.00	-
9	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	450,000.00	350,000.00
10	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000.00	-
11	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (individual)	15,500,000.00	-
12	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	-	900,000.00
13	PHIL. COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	-	50,000.00
14	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	250,000.00	-
15	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,050,000.00	
16	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	350,000.00	-
17	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	-	850,000.00
18	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB (individual)		175,000.00
19	VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	-	300,000.00
20	VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB, INC (CEBU)	please call	
21	WACK-WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	-	10,500,000.00

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Momentary enthusiasm

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

THE MAY Day Madness that we all witnessed put the Philippines back on the world map. The international coverage was particularly thorough on the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) television network.

However, once again, the international media present a distorted picture of our country.

The battle outside the gates of Malacañang was extremely serious and the potential for catastrophe was even greater. I too must add my voice of commendation and highest respect for the way our police and military conducted themselves. In any other country, this situation would have turned into a massive bloodbath. In an attempt to provide you with dramatic news coverage (and maybe a Pulitzer prize for himself), my friend and beer buddy, Inquirer photographer Jess, sustained injuries.

Nonetheless, while listening to the BBC and watching its day-long continuing coverage, you would have believed Manila was filled with hundreds of thousands of rioters, the streets ablaze, and our society and institutions had completely broken apart. Then, in my opinion, certain government officials potentially made the international perceptions worse. CNN devoted a half an hour late last week to examining the state of the Philippines. Government officials who were interviewed had a difficult time playing to both the domestic and international audience. On one hand, they tried to strongly state the seriousness of the situation while justifying the government's actions of arrest and the probable filing of criminal charges. On the other hand, they tried inadequately to assure foreign money everything was just fine. Even the CNN host looked confused and skeptical about what was being said.

I think the problem with our "relationship" with the rest of the world, through the foreign media, is that we are hesitant to expose the root causes of many of our tribulations. We prefer to only talk about the symptoms of our problems.

We moan and wail about corruption in government while at the same time less than ten percent of the working population pays any income tax at all, in violation of our laws. Every administration blames external forces when fuel prices increase, yet none have ever proposed a comprehensive, long term energy policy for the Philippines. We complain in general about the quality of our politicians. Yet, we vote based on personality rather than policy. It is not very different at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Clients often (some always) ask for trading concessions in direct violation of both PSE and SEC regulations. And unfortunately brokers go along with it, letting clients have a free ride (trading without paying) and giving margin without charging interest.

We have yet to implement most of the long-term plans to bolster trading on the exchange. For example, despite continuing efforts from Chairman Bautista at the SEC, companies that have been given BOI incentives and are supposed to go public have been allowed to delay "until the market conditions improve".

Often we buy shares in companies the way we vote.

Companies that see net income drop 90 percent have share prices four times the level that their profits warrant. Other companies with sustained earnings growth of over 20 percent for the past three years are trading near three-year lows. We buy on tips rather than fundamentals.

We know what is wrong and we still cannot seem to muster the will, or the effort, or whatever it takes to put the situation right.

This momentary enthusiasm (I won't say euphoria) over the potential for positive changes in the way government does business probably will not last. I do not see this stock market making much headway to the upside. I hope the current administration is serious about our government institutions transforming into something more efficient and effective. When investors sincerely believe that is going to happen, then I will be able to say with confidence that our stock market is heading higher. Until that time, we will continue to struggle with share prices on a day-to-day basis with no authentic upward momentum and direction.

Maybe instead of the phrase "momentary enthusiasm", it would be more accurate to say "ningas cogon". We must start laying foundations for long-term prosperity and growth that will reflect itself in our stock market.

Short-term solutions are just that -- short term. And you can see that in the short-term rises in our market.

Last Monday in the Readers' Advocate column by Raul Palabrica, a reader from Cavite commented that I have a stern face in the picture used for this column. It is just that when I smile in a posed picture, I look like I am ending a three-day drinking spree or like someone about to pull a 1-2-3 scam. This recent picture shows my new hairstyle. My barber suggested it when he got tired of my complaining about his inability to make my bald mountain look like a virgin forest.

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax *Number 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun-@yahoo.com.)*

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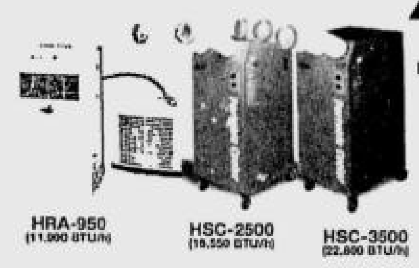

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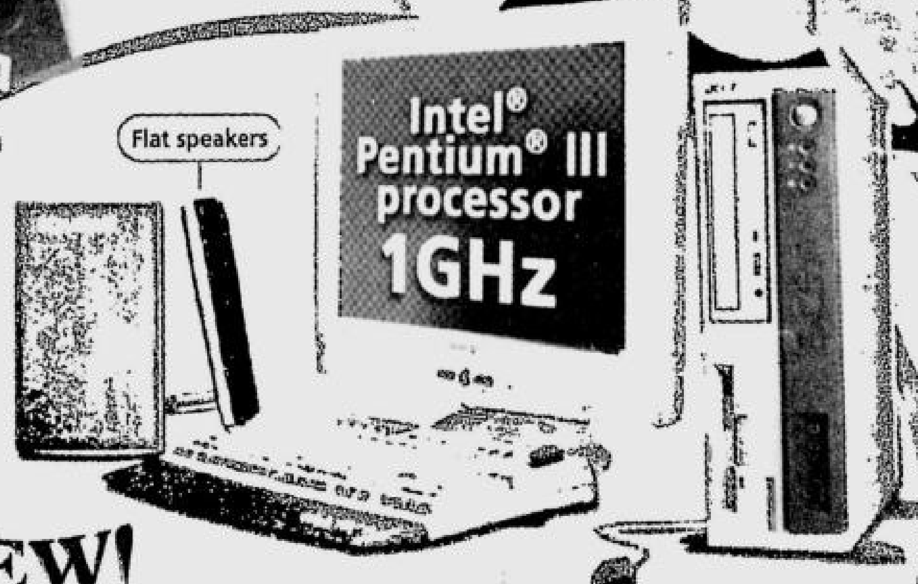

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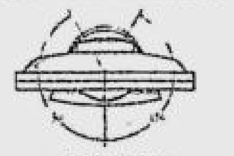

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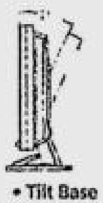

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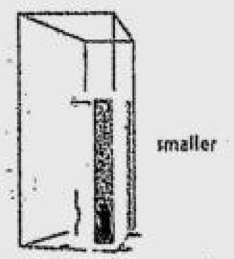

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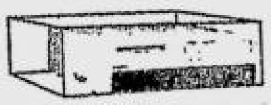

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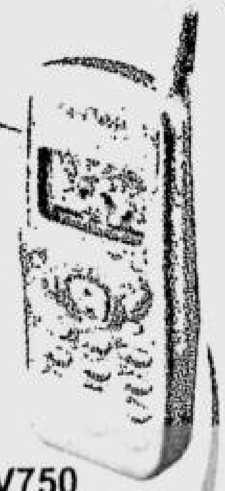

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MORE FOCUSED

Gov't cuts list of priority investment areas

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority and the Board of Investments have pruned down by more than two-thirds the number of investment areas eligible for fiscal perks in the Investments Priorities Plan (IPP).

The joint review committee of the Neda and BOI slashed from 148 to 46 the IPP's preferred investment areas after Malacañang gave them the scissors to come up with a leaner roster focused only on sectors that have the biggest impact on the economy.

The two agencies said that in choosing which areas to retain, they gave priority to activities that would push the government's development objectives such as drugs, mass housing and infrastructure.

The committee junked the entire manufacturing activity section in the IPP in order to focus on the BOI's two-year industry cluster program wherein industry players are encouraged to locate in a common site near their raw material sources to save on transportation and storage costs and encourage sharing common facilities.

This strategy also requires the limitation to only 1 or 2 of the priority sectors per region from as many as 10 industry clusters previously. Clusters will be promoted only in regions where they are intrinsic.

Of the mandatory inclusions, the investment areas retained are industrial tree plantation; iron and steel projects; exploration, mining and quarrying; processing of minerals; and petroleum refining, storage, marketing and distribution.

Withdrawn from the list are activities under agriculture and fisheries modernization; production and processing of high value crops; commercial fishing; jewelry; build-operate-transfer projects; and projects under Asean Industrial Cooperation agreement. The Neda-BOI removed the mandatory inclusions whose laws merely provide optional listing.

The trimmer IPP was largely influenced by the Neda which was reportedly moving to take over the annual drafting of the list of government-preferred investment areas from the BOI by next year.

Urban Bank story . . .

(From page B4)

Arsenio Bartolome III and Borlongan went to see BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura to inform him about Urban Bank's plan to surrender its commercial banking license and become a holding company.

The plan was to convert Urban Bank, a commercial bank, into a holding company. This holding company would then infuse some P2 billion in additional capital to Urban Bank's thrift bank, Urban Corp. Development Bank. All Urban Bank branches, franchises, assets and deposits would be transferred to the thrift bank. The non-performing loans would remain with the holding company.

The idea was that with the commercial bank morphing into a holding company and, therefore, no longer bound by banking restrictions, Urban Bank—or whatever name it would be known after its transformation into a holding company—would be flexible enough to enter into joint-venture deals to dispose of mortgaged assets backing its non-performing loans by going very strongly into middle-income housing.

The thrift bank would have the role of creating mortgages, while the investment house, Urbancorp Investments Inc., would be maintained as a securitization vehicle. A new company was formed to do the servicing of the securitization, and another subsidiary, Urban Realty Developers Inc., would be transformed into an information technology firm.

"That was a great plan. From hindsight, that was an excellent plan," Borlongan said. "How do you dispose of bad loans? You have to create your own market. You cannot sell non-performing loans."

For Buenaventura, the plan also "made a lot of sense, and we believed them, and we said, 'Fine'."

Semantics

As they were wrapping up their discussions about the plan, Bartolome underscored the importance of "public perception," so they agreed not to use the word "downgrading" and instead use "re-focusing." They also decided not to disclose the plan yet to the public until the central bank had formally approved it.

As it turned out, semantics tore the whole plan apart. A few days later, the word "downgrading," not "refocusing," made its way to the business sections of most newspapers. The reports that came out was that Urban Bank was "downgrading" into a thrift bank, triggering withdrawals that started in trickles, and later evolved into wave upon wave of panic-driven withdrawals.

Borlongan today blames the central bank for leaking these reports.

"That was a jittery market when the BSP purposely leaked out, for some strange reason that escapes me, about that downgrading of Urban Bank," he said, adding that it also hurt Urban Bank that the central bank came out with press releases about penalties that it would impose on banks that would downgrade their licenses.

Buenaventura denies ever leaking any story about Urban Bank downgrading into a thrift bank, although, semantics aside, he believes what Urban Bank's conversion plan ultimately amounted to was a downgrading.

"Unfortunately, we cannot control the press when they use the word 'downgrade' because that's what it is: from a universal bank you go down to a commercial bank to a thrift bank. It's not something we can control, so when they asked me to come out with a press statement saying 'refocus,' there was a statement that came out with 'refocus'," he said.

Massive withdrawal

With the news out, depositors and investors began shoveling their money out of Urban Bank and Urbancorp. It wasn't just the news of Urban Bank downgrading into a thrift bank that spooked them. At the time, investment houses with banking ties were falling down like flies. Westmont Investment Corp., a unit of Westmont Bank, had P5 billion to P7 billion in unpaid instruments. The ASB group of companies had about P3.5 billion in unpaid instruments that went through BSA Bank.

On March 20 last year, Bartolome informed the Monetary Board, the central bank's policy-making body, of "unusual withdrawals" from Urban Bank's Chinese clients, particularly those in Binondo, Manila. What he did not say was that it was primarily Urbancorp that was having problems, although the investment house was said to have had little "Binondo exposure."

On March 24, Bartolome and Borlongan again met with the Monetary Board to seek a rediscounting line. They specifically discussed with the central bank's policymakers the possibility of rediscounting their National Food Authority papers and loans guaranteed by the Home Insurance Guaranty Corp. This meant Urban Bank was trying to improve its financial health and meet withdrawals by converting into cash debts owed to it by the NFA and HIGC.

On April 10, Bartolome and Borlongan met with central bank officials and again expressed their concern over heavy withdrawals that Urban Bank was experiencing. The following day, Deputy BSP Governor Alberto Reyes called up Land Bank of the Philippines president and chief executive officer Florido Casuela and asked him to help Urban Bank refinance its NFA papers. Casuela assured him Landbank would not cut Urban Bank's lines and was amenable to granting more loans to the NFA so that the state firm could pay its debts to Urban Bank.

With Landbank willing to cover for NFA's debts, Bartolome informed the Monetary Board that Urban Bank was no longer interested in pursuing its request for a rediscounting of its NFA papers. Regarding the HIGC-guaranteed loans, it was pointed out that the central bank allowed rediscounting only for socialized low-cost housing loans but not loans to home developments.

Bleeding

On Holy Week last year, as the country was winding down and taking a break to observe the passion and death of Jesus Christ, Urban Bank was bleeding to death. A small group of government regulators and bankers were working overtime to find a savior—a "big brother" or a "white knight"—that would keep Urban Bank alive.

On April 17, a Holy Monday, Bartolome and Borlongan sought from the central bank a financial assistance and a press release saying it had approved, in principle, Urban Bank's plan to convert into a holding company. It was a last-ditch public relations pitch.

The following day, the two Urban Bank officials began laying down their cards. The central bank was given details on the magnitude of withdrawals that hit Urban Bank. One computer printout showed that Landbank had lent the NFA some P3 billion so it could pay off its debts to Urban Bank. Bartolome and Borlongan also disclosed during this meeting that most "withdrawals" were coming from Urbancorp. It was the investment house that was having a run.

On April 19, the central bank offered to provide Urban Bank a P3.5-billion emergency loan based on the bank's deposit base at the time, which was P7 billion. The names of Equitable PCI Bank Inc. and Banco de Oro Universal Bank also surfaced as possible "white knights" for Urban Bank and Urbancorp. On the same day, Bartolome and Borlongan informed the central bank that without an emergency loan and a savior, Urban Bank could afford to open its doors only for six more days. They asked the central bank if it would be possible to convince Landbank to buy in or for the Social Security System to come in since it already had two-and-a-half seats in Urban Bank's board. Then Finance Secretary Jose Pardo, however, told Bartolome and Borlongan that because of public criticism of state-owned firms for bailing out private companies, any help from Landbank and the SSS was unlikely.

Loan cut

From Good Friday to Easter Sunday, the BSP and Urban Bank were deep in last-minute meetings to find a way to keep Urban Bank and Urbancorp open. Urban Bank, by then, had already chosen Banco de Oro as its "white knight" and was firming up details of an emergency loan from the central bank.

A crucial meeting happened on Easter Sunday. Huddled in the president's room of the Manila Golf Club were most of the key players involved: Bartolome and Borlongan of Urban Bank, Tessie Coson and Nelson Tan of Banco de Oro, PDIC president Norberto Nazareno and Monetary Board member Antonino Alindogan. These people remember this meeting in varying ways, depending on where they stood. At the end of that meeting, Urban Bank's emergency loan was slashed from P3.5 billion to P1.3 billion. That decision sealed Urban Bank's fate.

After that Easter Sunday meeting, Nazareno held two more meetings with Bartolome and Borlongan. The two were still willing to take PDIC's P1.3-billion emergency assistance and were trying to come up with collateral documents to support the loan. But in the end, Bartolome and Borlongan felt the money wasn't enough to plug the withdrawals and that it would be more prudent for them to declare a holiday. Nazareno, on the other hand, believed that after a careful evaluation of its balance sheets, Urban Bank did not merit a P3.5-billion assistance. On the eve of the bank's closure, in fact, Urban Bank's collateral documents were enough only to warrant the release of an initial P300 million out of the P1.3 billion that the PDIC board had approved.

On April 25, Urban Bank declared a holiday. Twenty-four hours later, PDIC moved in to shut it down.

(To be continued)

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IMPROVING POLITICAL CONDITION

Gov't to pursue borrowing worth $150M

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE IMPROVING political situation in the country will likely allow the Macapagal administration to push through with its plan to borrow between $150 million and $200 million from a syndicate of investment banks led by JP Morgan Dean Witter and Chase Manhattan Bank.

The private placement was supposed to take place early this month but the underwriters pushed back the exercise earlier due to the volatile political situation.

A ranking official of the finance department said the plan was being reviewed and the borrowing was rescheduled for the latter part of the month after the May 14 elections.

The interest rate for the private placement was earlier pegged at 2.9 to 3.1 percentage points over the London Interbank Offered Rate of 4.76 percent but this might no longer apply due to the political developments early this month.

Spreads on Philippine bonds, for instance, widened by one percentage point since the pro-Estrada supporters gathered in Edsa following the arrest of the former president.

This has made foreign borrowings much more expensive for the Philippine government.

"The spreads are starting to tighten but there is a chance we can still do it this month at the same rates," the official said.

The country was expected to borrow P180 billion this year, of which 40 percent will come from overseas debt markets and the rest from local sources.

The BSP was encouraged to tap foreign fund sources due to the favorable rates it enjoyed on borrowings in March and April.

The BSP raised $740 million from the international market in March. The borrowings carried a spread of 3.1 percentage points over Libor. A month later, it raised another $200 million with a softer spread of 2.9 percentage points over Libor.

Int'l energy council bucks rate subsidies

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE WORLD Energy Council said Friday developing countries should remove energy subsidies because these hindered economic development.

The WEC, a group of energy-related companies, said "poorly designed subsidies have various negative effects that could overwhelm (their) social benefits."

The group said many developing countries tried to subsidize energy prices on the end-user side to improve accessibility for the poor, but these subsidies cost countries strapped for cash "an uncontrollable amount of money."

Citing the lack of transparency, the WEC said the wrong groups of consumers tended to benefit from subsidies. It said the wealthiest individuals or companies, not end-consumers, sometimes benefited substantially.

Despite this, the WEC suggested that well-targeted and temporary energy subsidies might be justified.

National Power Corp. president Jesus Alcordo said the state-run firm was subsidizing almost two-thirds of the power cost in small-island grids.

Alcordo said the generation cost for small islands was P5.94 per kilowatt-hour, but they were charging an average of only P2.50 per kwh. He said Napocor was shouldering the rest of the amount.

He added that the estimated subsidies for small-island grids for 2001 had reached P3 billion. This accounted for at least a hundred power plants with an aggregate capacity of 170 megawatts.

Small islands are serviced mostly by diesel-fed power barges that can be moved from place to place. Electrification of such communities are the most expensive mainly due to their small scale.

Moreso, connecting small islands to main grids in large islands is uneconomical.

Most of the country's barangays that have no electricity are located in remote areas

Globe signs $110-M deal with Ericsson

GLOBE Telecom has signed a $110-million supply contract with Swedish telecommunications equipment maker Ericsson in line with the cellular phone company's network expansion program this year.

In a statement, Globe said $71 million of the amount would form part of the $330-million phase 8A expansion program of the company. Globe also has the option to purchase an additional $39 million worth of equipment from Ericsson when needed.

Phase 8A expansion is scheduled to start in the next few months and will involve the installation of additional cell sites, switches, transmission facilities and Intelligent Network capacity.

"Other phases will follow depending on the actual demand because we want to have flexibility depending on how demand is shaping up," said Globe president Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr.

As of end-March 2001, Globe has approximately 2.92 million subscribers

It will also be the first time that Ericsson will build Globe's network in Luzon. Ever since Globe started out, Nokia of Finland supplied the network infrastructure for Luzon while Ericsson's supplied the equipment for the Visayas and Mindanao

The deal with Ericsson involves the installation of 231 cell sites all over the country and the upgrade of 87 other cell sites. Globe's cell sites already reached 1,168 as of end-December 2000.

"By embarking on an aggressive nationwide expansion program, Globe will not only further increase its geographical reach but will also have more than enough capacity to support its growing subscriber base," said Globe in the statement.

Meanwhile, the company also announced that it entered into a network service agreement with Singapore Telecom, which has a 40-percent stake in Globe

GOINGS-ON

PLDT best RP issuer

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. was voted the best credit in the Philippines and was ranked the fourth best in Asia.

This was the result of a survey of institutional investors worldwide by The Asset, one of Asia's leading financial magazines.

In this survey, PLDT garnered more than twice the score of the second ranked Philippine issuer, Ayala Corp.

The survey covered 105 international institutional investment houses managing a total of $27 billion in Asian fixed income assets.

Earlier this year, readers of Euromoney Magazine, voted PLDT as the best managed fixed line telecommunications company in Asia.

Kiosk technology

TOUCHMedia Phils. Inc. recently held a live run of its advanced bills payment machines at the PLDT Makati business office in line with its thrust to establish superior kiosk technology

TouchMedia, the leading self-service delivery solutions systems integrator in the country, has an existing agreement with PLDT and RCBC to deploy over a hundred cutting-edge automated bills payment "QuickPay" machines in PLDT nationwide over a three year period. The "QuickPay" bills payment machines also accept cash and/or check payments for multiple accounts.

Apart from bills payment machines, TMP's line of kiosk products include BrowsHpress infoweb kiosks, Online Remittance Kiosks (OAK) CeeDee Station, I-T@ps internet kiosk aggregator and Merlin Prepaid Appliance.

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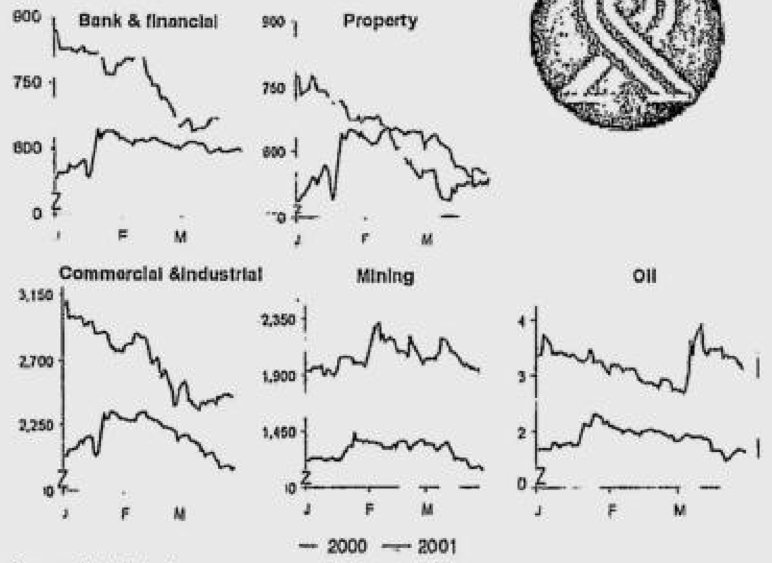

Source: Technistock

Most sectoral indices declined in the first quarter this year. The bank and financial average was 71.6 points lower than the 2000 end-March figure. The biggest decline during the quarter was posted by the property sector which fell 10 percent, followed by the mining sector which fell 7.2 percent.

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OECD cuts 2001 forecasts, sees US recovery

PARIS—The OECD has slashed its 2001 growth forecasts for member states, but it sees the US economy recovering as early as the second half of this year, while Europe remains relatively immune to the global slowdown.

"The central projection is relatively optimistic, but the risks to the outlook are clearly on the downside," the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said in its twice-yearly Economic Outlook.

The OECD said it now saw growth in its 30 member states of 2 percent in 2001.

This was down from its previous estimate for a 3.3-percent growth in the OECD area, made last November before an unexpectedly sharp deterioration in the US economic outlook.

The Paris-based organization said it had downwardly revised its forecast for US economic growth in 2001 to 1.7 percent from 3.5 percent previously.

The forecasts, while adding to the gloom about US economic prospects, were marginally more upbeat than the International Monetary Fund's recent prediction that the US economy would grow 1.5 percent in 2001.

OECD chief economist Ignazio Visco sounded a cautiously optimistic note at a news conference to present the figures.

"At this stage, the gloom observed by markets may be greater than warranted by hard economic data," he told reporters.

The OECD said its forecasts assumed the US Federal Reserve would sanction another quarter-point rate cut, having already trimmed its key fed funds rate by an aggressive 200 basis points since the start of the year to 4.5 percent.

"The projection for the US economy is based on a modest further easing, which together with the earlier cuts, is expected to provide support for a rebound in activity later this year," it said.

However, it warned that major risks lurked which could point to more fundamental imbalances, possibly requiring the Fed to cut rates by an additional 75 basis points.

Rising household debt levels and further stock losses could frighten consumers, while bosses could scale back investment plans after a tech-led boom that saw many firms overspending and has since led to a rash of lay-offs and profit downgrades.

Europe's leading economies were also likely to see slower growth this year, although prospects remained healthy providing there were no nasty shocks from abroad.

The OECD reduced its 2001 euro zone growth estimate for the second month in a row to 2.6 percent from 2.7 percent, despite saying the European Central Bank would have to cut interest rates by 50 basis points in the summer, double its April prediction.

France remained the star performer among euro zone economies, but the OECD cut its growth forecast for Germany to 2.2 percent from 2.7, only slightly bettering the German government's own recent downward revision in growth prospects.

Visco refrained from an outright call for an ECB rate cut, although he hinted that failure to act could damage Europe's growth prospects by sapping confidence.

"I think the ECB is best placed to decide not only how but also when to cut interest rates," Visco said. "We are not aggressive in asking the ECB to do anything."

"We think that this might help stabilize confidence in Europe. We might feel that perhaps growth would be slightly less than we projected (otherwise)," Visco added.

The ECB has stubbornly rejected calls for a rate cut so far, insisting that the risk of price pressures remains too high and that it can do nothing to offset external economic shocks.

The OECD said excluding volatile energy and meat prices, core inflation appeared under control, although it added that any prolonged resurgence in world oil prices would hamper the prospects for a European rate reduction. *Reuters*

IT execs voice concern for US economy

PORTOLA VALLEY, California—On a day that a rally in US stock markets lifted hopes for better economic times on the horizon, some leading high-tech executives and academics begged to differ, saying the current slump would be prolonged.

"I think we're in a "U," said Cisco Systems Inc. chief executive John Chambers, referring to a U-shaped pattern in which the economy falls and then remains depressed for some time before recovering. Chambers' opinion has changed from several months ago, when he spoke of a V-shaped economy that would bounce back quickly.

He offered his thoughts during a daylong New Economy Forum here, which closed with a highly unscientific survey, in which guests were asked to cast a vote for the economy. "U," "V" or "L," the most feared outcome, in which the downturn continues indefinitely

Although there were a couple of votes for the preferred scenario of a V-shaped recovery, the more popular opinion was that the economy would go into a long U. And some people suggested it was in an L-shaped trend, at least in California.

"I'd say it will be a U for the US and an L for California," said John Doerr, partner with Kleiner Perkins Caulfield & Byers, the prominent Silicon Valley venture capital firm that has financed several big high-tech and dotcom start-ups, including Amazon.com Inc. and Drugstore.com Inc.

Echoing a common theme of the forum, which was sponsored by the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley, Doerr said California's energy crisis threatened to weigh down an already fragile economy. He also warned that energy would become increasingly central to the worldwide economy as Third World development spurred demand for power, water and infrastructure.

Some of the other economic issues that were raised hit closer to home for the group of guests, many who actively participated in the New Economy expansion of the late 1990s and said they were forced to question the value of the high-tech innovations they had helped build. A number of people said they had learned the hard way that just because they could build a new gadget, it did not mean people would want to buy it.

"Consumers will take a look at the technology that is being pushed at them, and they will often push back very hard," said Russ Winer, a professor at the Haas School of Business, who cast his vote for a U-shaped economy.

Michael Powell, chair of the US Federal Communications Commission, also spoke about the limits of technology during his keynote address, in which he revealed that all of his mobile gadgets sometimes just complicated his life.

"I find I spend a lot of time insisting that certain devices are used, when I'm on the road," he said. "Otherwise I just have a staff of people with a lot of toys and I don't know how they are going to reach me." *Reuters*

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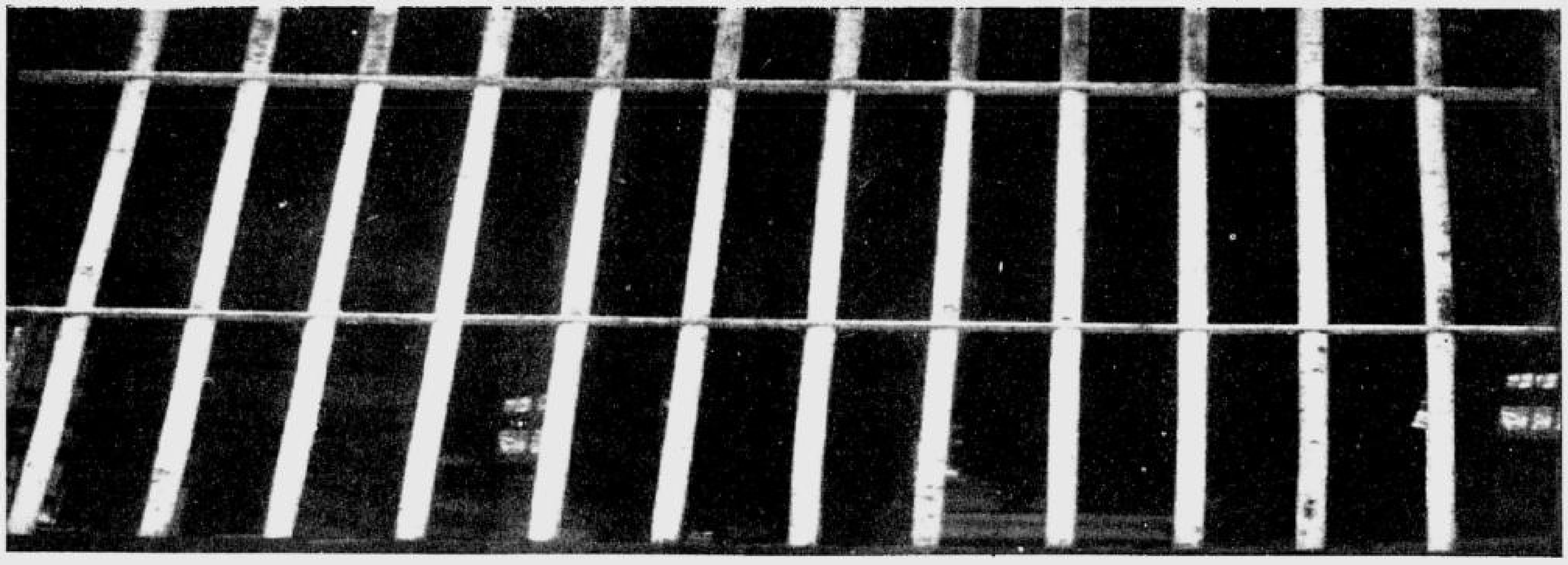

PARUSAHAN.

Sa ilalim ng batas, ang may kasalanan ay pinarurusahan. Sa demokrasya, ang lahat ay pantay-pantay.

Sa Chile, inaresto ang dating Presidente, Gen. Augusto Pinochet. Sa Yugoslavia, inaresto rin si Presidente Slobodan Milosevic. Sa South Korea naman, dalawang Presidente - sina Roh Tae Woo at Chu Doo Hwan - ang ikinulong sa kasong corruption.

Patunay lamang na sa mata ng batas, ang lahat ay pantay-pantay. Walang sinisino.

Pero, bakit pinagtatalunan pa rin kung dapat parusahan o hindi ang napatalsik na Presidente na nahaharap sa 13 kasong kriminal. Kasama sa mga kasong kriminal:

- P500 milyong suhol mula sa mga Jueteng Lord.
- P3.3 bilyon na "unexplained wealth" sa pangalan ni Jose Velarde.
- P150 milyon na "unexplained wealth" sa pagbili ng Boracay Mansion.
- P1.8 bilyon ng SSS at GSIS na ginamit pambili ng shares ng Belle Corporation at Waterfront Hotel.
- Pagbulsa sa P130 milyon Tobacco Excise Tax.
- Graft and Corruption.
- Pagtataksil sa tiwala ng bayan o "betrayal of public trust."
- Sadyang paglabag sa Saligang Batas o "Culpable violation of the Constitution."
- Plunder.

Kailangang harapin at sagutin ng dating Presidente ang mga kaso laban sa kanya sa korte. Utang niya ito sa bayan. Kung may "warrant of arrest," kailangan siyang ikulong dahil isa sa mga kaso laban sa kanya ay "plunder," isang krimen na walang piyansa.

Katungkulan naman ng ating gobyerno na ipatupad ang batas nang pantay-pantay at walang kinikilingan. Ordinaryong mamamayan, mayaman o mahirap o kahit pa dating Presidente, kung may kasalanan, kailangang parusahan.

Sa oras na maipatutupad natin ang batas, babalik na muli ang tiwala ng mamamayan sa kanilang gobyerno. Lalakas ang tiwala ng mga negosyante at mga foreign investor sa ating sistema political. Tataas ang antas ng pagtingin sa atin ng buong mundo. Higit sa lahat, manunumbalik ang respeto natin sa ating sarili bilang Pilipino.

Sa kabilang dako, kung hindi natin maipatutupad ang batas, hihina ang pundasyon ng ating demokrasya. May tinitignan at kinikilingan. May malakas, may mahina.

Pagtatawanan tayo ng buong daigdig. Mawawalan ng tiwala ang mga negosyante at mga foreign investor sa ating sistema pulitika. Mahihirapan na tayong makaahon sa kahirapan. Habambuhay na tayong maghihirap.

Sa kabila ng lahat ng ito, may mga nagsasabi na "kawawa" naman daw ang dating Presidente. Hindi daw dapat parusahan.

Pero, papaano naman ang hustisya?

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223,000 WORKERS FIRED

Big US jobs loss stokes new recession fears

WASHINGTON—The US economy hemorrhaged jobs in April at the fastest pace in a decade, driving up the unemployment rate and stoking fresh fears of a recession.

The labor department said Friday that employers around the country hacked 223,000 workers off their payrolls last month after cutting jobs by 53,000 in March.

The jobless rate jumped to 4.5 percent, the highest level since October 1998, from 4.3 percent in March.

Initially, stock markets were disheartened by the number but then bucked up at the thought that the data would encourage the US central bank to continue cutting interest rates.

April's payroll loss was the biggest since a 259,000 drop in February 1991, just as the last 1990-1991 recession was drawing to a close.

"The magnitude of the drop is shocking," said Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Hancock Financial Services in Boston. "It seems like hiring has just run out of steam and we are left with nothing but the layoffs."

In a Reuters survey, US economists had projected a rise of 5,000 in payrolls in April and an increase in the unemployment rate to only 4.4 percent.

The gloomy report sent US stock prices lower at the open, but they later reversed and closed solidly higher as traders focused on a silver lining: the prospect that the Federal Reserve would continue with its aggressive rate cuts.

Nasdaq, with a heavy complement of technology stocks, closed with a gain of more than 2 percent, or just over 45 points. The blue chip Dow Jones industrial average logged an increase of more than 154 points, or 1.43 percent.

The Fed has reduced rates a total of two percentage points in four moves already this year, including two surprise cuts in January and April that took place between regular meetings.

A Reuters poll of top bond firms taken on Friday found 24 out of 25 expected the US central bank to cut the federal funds overnight lending rate by a half-point to 4 percent at its next meeting in mid-May.

Just 15 out of 25 dealers held this view a little over two weeks ago.

"The numbers basically guarantee that the Fed does 50 basis points on May 15," said Anthony Chan, chief economist at Banc One Investment Advisors in Columbus, Ohio. "I think they will do another 50 basis points in June."

Even Fed officials appeared startled by the size of the drop in jobs.

In an interview with Reuters on Friday, Fed Governor Edward Kelley said he was "a bit surprised" at the severity of the decline. But he emphasized that employment numbers were lagging indicators of broader economic health, so some softness was to be expected in light of recent layoffs in many industries.

"I'm not prepared at this moment to say that that trend of net new formation of jobs, which is a very important thing to have happening in your economy is necessarily broken," Kelley said.

However, the number raised worries at the White House. Spokesman Ari Fleischer said, because of the numbers, the Bush administration was "very concerned" that a 2 percent rise in gross domestic product seen in the first quarter may have overstated the economy's strength.

Leading the job declines was the beleaguered manufacturing sector, which bled 104,000 jobs, and the "help-supply" category, which saw a drop in payrolls of 108,000. The help-supply industry includes mainly temporary workers. April was the ninth month the manufacturing sector has lost jobs.

Unlike the pattern of the past few years, the service sector in April failed to pick up the slack from the hard-hit manufacturing sector. Jobs in the broad category of service-producing industries fell 59,000.

Rising claims for unemployment insurance and privately gathered layoff statistics from outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas have been signaling a darkening job market picture for months.

But economists were nonetheless taken aback at the jobs report, in part because some other recent economic data, such as a 2-percent gain in first-quarter GDP, had suggested the economy may emerge soon from its sharp slowdown.

But the jobs report underlined worries about the outlook for the second quarter and beyond.

"The real concern is that these lost jobs and the resulting lost income will undermine consumer confidence further and induce people to ratchet down their spending," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com in West Chester, Pa. *Reuters*

This series on Philippine Banking history is published in the business section of the **Philippine Daily Inquirer** in commemoration of the 150th year of the **Bank of the Philippine Islands** (BPI), formerly *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2* (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

PHILIPPINE BANKING

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...that in the late 1800s, the export-import trade in the Philippines was dominated by British merchants while the retail traffic was in the hands of the Chinese?

...that the principal center of retail business in the Manila suburbs then was Rosario Street (now Quintin Paredes) while the finest of American and European shops were found on Escolta?

...that the island of Binondo, on the northern side of old Manila, was the hub of economic activity in the late 1800s?

...that even *El Banco Español Filipino* (originally called *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2*), the first bank in the Philippines, relocated its head office to Binondo because Intramuros had become economically inactive?

...that the bank moved to No. 4 Plaza Cervantes in Binondo in January, 1892 after acquiring a prime property from the Dominican friars in September, 1891?

150 YEARS

Wall Street economists predict another deep interest rates cut

NEW YORK—A surprise plunge in US payrolls in April pushed Wall Street economists on Friday into near agreement that the Federal Reserve would cut interest rates by a half-point for the fifth time this year when it meets in less than two weeks.

The very weak jobs report seems to have ended weeks of speculation that a widely expected cut at the Fed's May 15 meeting could be smaller given resilience seen in key sectors of the economy such as housing and consumer spending.

A Reuters poll of top bond firms that deal directly with the Fed in financial markets found 24 out of 25 expected the Fed's policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee would cut the US benchmark overnight bank lending rate to 4 percent at its next policy meeting. Just 15 out of 25 dealers held this view a little over two weeks ago.

"This pretty well rules out the option of relaxing a little and going to a 25 (basis point cut)," said Jim O'Sullivan, an economist at UBS Warburg in Stamford, Connecticut, shortly after the government reported the US economy shed 223,000 jobs in April, the worst monthly loss in a decade.

Interest-rate sensitive shorter-dated US Treasuries flew higher on the jobs news, pushing yields lower, while stocks rose as the market factored in accelerated expectations of Fed rate cuts.

"From the Fed's perspective, effectively we are in recession because the labor markets are in recession. You've got the unemployment rate up 0.6 percent and you just don't get increases like that outside of recessions," O'Sullivan said.

The unemployment rate in April rose to 4.5 percent, its highest level since October 1998 and compared with a three-decade low of 3.9 percent seen last year.

The outlook for interest rates beyond the May 15 meeting was less clear, with 11 firms forecasting a quarter-point cut at the June 26 to 27 meeting and eight expecting another half-point cut at that time. Six firms expected no move, the poll showed.

With the next Fed rate policy meeting less than two weeks away, economists saw little chance of another surprise rate cut between regular meetings. The Fed has used this strategy twice this year, the last time on April 18.

Despite all the doom and gloom about jobs, the same poll of economists found that most think the world's largest economy will skirt a recession, defined as two straight quarters of shrinking gross domestic product. But the chances are rising.

Dealers forecast, on average, a 39 percent chance of a recession compared with 33 percent in a similar poll two weeks ago. One firm, Morgan Stanley, believes the economy already is in recession. *Reuters*

Greenspan hopes Americans will spend way out of slump

NEW YORK—If Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan is counting on the consumer to bail out the ailing American economy, his chances of success would appear slim to none.

The betting in some quarters is the Fed may not be able to keep the Great American Spending Machine fired up forever because the jobs market is scaring a lot of people.

The risk is that job insecurity could prompt consumers to pull back on spending, which would knock out the last peg that has so far held up the economy.

Greenspan is staring at a major manufacturing slowdown and the Fed chief is anxious to keep this recession-like condition from slamming the rest of the economy. Already, massive job cuts are being announced almost daily.

Some experts say we are seeing the sequence of events that are typical in the early stages of a recession.

"As employment deteriorates, so does confidence, leading to cutbacks in consumer spending, inventories and ultimately production," says Kathleen Camilli, director of research for brokerage firm Tucker Anthony.

Camilli estimates there's a three months' delay between the time consumers' lack of confidence in the economy translates into actual cutbacks in spending.

So far consumers are still happy campers. Cars are rolling off dealers' lots and sales of homes are buzzing along. The reason: personal incomes are still on the rise and this is firing up spending.

Consumer confidence, i.e., the way Americans feel about the economy and their financial health, is critical because their spending accounts for two-thirds of the nation's gross domestic product. US household spending is forecast to grow by 2 to 3 percent this year. *Reuters*

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PANAY 3BR P5M 722-8951

Scout Area 3BR 3TB 2CG MRw/TB P5.5M • 928-2497

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Woodside NMla 915-5177

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Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
near SM Bacoor
Initial DP: P15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P15,000
FORTE REALTY
2/F Princess Bldg, Esteban St, Legaspi Village, Makati City
829-5081 872-7603
810-8019 871-8318
810-7183 810-7297
815-2144
Welcome Brokers & Agents

SAN JUAN

AIC Gold Tower 2BR w/den FA159m² • 928-1469

Francis Court San Juan LA200 Flr269 • 928-2497

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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• 1st Class Near C5• Heritage Park T671-4421

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

LA8160m² P400/m² Over Looking Bat Pier 911-7940

FACTORY/WHSE

Nr. Makati 300m² w/ 2 tels. Call 8509507

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MARIKINA

nr Ateneo 2BR 1TB grge Montevista P8,500 6819583

PASIG

2Sty Nr C5 Sn Joaquin 721-3999

SAN JUAN

2BR San Juan 92513489

HOUSE

ALABANG

Ayala Alabang For Rent 842-1571 • 0919-2061384

PASIG

Kawilihan Vill 1BR 50m² Secured P10T/mo 671-4421

PROVINCIAL

Las Pinas URCI Twnhse 2BR Parking Avlbl 7T/mo. Call 0917-3707730

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR Furn South Str Plz 844-7524

ESSENSA / PACIFIC Fort Bonifacio 0917-5414155

Legaspi Village BNew 2BR Semi Furn P70/m² 671-4421

Mkt. Asia Tower 1-2-3BR 751-8342 • 6337601-03

ROCKWELL S 1.2.3, & 4BR 0917-5414155

MANILA

1BR3BR w/gar/tel/strng H2O nr. P.GIC St. 5634007/5642878/0603

MANDALUYONG

Cityland Shaw Studio Furn 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

PIONEER 1BR • 722-8951

PASIG

AIC Condo Ortigas 2BR P30T/mo Call • 671-4421

QUEZON CITY

BANAWE 3BR 3TB 1PK100m² P9T/mo nr E. ROD 242-0922

FOR LEASE

VL 600m² SCT. BORROMEO COR TUAZON ST. QC VL 1200m² Mindanao AVE. NEAR SM North Fairview, QC VL 368m² SAN ANTONIO cor. Figueroa, Paco, MLA. 2-doors 3-storey comml. bldg. at A. BLVD. COR. A. LUNA San Juan near Broadway Centrum LA 1000m² w/2 houses RESIDENTIAL & WAREHOUSE (VAN) FA400m² each at Brixton Hill Ext. Araneta Ave. QC. CALL 561-1092 Vicky

ROOM & BOARD

Boarder nr. La Salle 8992148

Near DLSU/Quirino Ave. Call 523-5465 / 523-8760

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

WANTED TO BUY

Wanted To Buy Shaw Twr 1Bdrm Pgr 1481788421

BUSINESS RENTAL

P1800/mo Stalls Malate T-400-6420/23 Sn Pedro Lag. 8086006/07

3rd Flr 300m² Kamias 9206694/9251348

BNew @ Fort Boni P350/m² At The IT Zone 671-4421

CEBU CITY Coml Space Ideal 4 Fastfood Book & Drug Store Osmena Blvd. Near Univ. of Cebu 235SMGF 370SM 2nd Flr. Call Andy 889-5673

Ortigas Ctr 100/200/400 Sqm 8150298 CP 0919-4037225

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Beach Resort w/Improv LA2751m² P3T/m² 911-7940

PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

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MERCEDES

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Adventure 80T new D/P 7819453

M98 L200 DC 635-3503 P320T

NISSAN

91 SGX Pwr 110Th 568-9187

All Less 15T new D/P 7819453

TOYOTA

91 Crla goodcond 9282396

MOTORCYCLE

YAMAHA scooter 50cc 10T neg. 8995116/8961335

BUSES/TRUCKS

Japan: ELF Canter M/Dump Carry Porter Bongo T-Ace PAS /Wing/AL-Van P-UP 4WD Chiller 4-6-10W 912-0647

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1 month guaranteed work
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115 Mindanao Ave., Quezon City
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CARS FOR RENT

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Van Coaster Bus 440-91-71

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

L300 VV (Roger) 578-8917

MB100 HiAceL300 9483535

MB 100 Van 643-7397

STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

UDrive Carsvans 8006595

Car Vans 4535288/9296250

Car Vans 4535288/9296250

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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

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2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 3670169

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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ROTT PUPS 931-0453

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Billiard Davao City 2974418

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BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair ROLEX Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T8342886

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Bus Electrician-w/exp for Hyundai Buses Tel 8376350

Driver w/exp 1mo. Motorcycle 9206694.9251348

Exp. Taxi Driver 635-3503

NURSE Male STAY IN 723-0101 RM 321 or 645-7605

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Wtd. Yaya, All around.Hmaids FamilyCook,IntlCook 6604589

MALE/FEMALE

Business Counselors and Marketing Trainors College Graduate w/ Pleasing Personality Basic Salary & Incentives Call 687-4311

CARE GIVER T5280722

Direct Hire Ofc Staff Call Mr Ricky 913-4470

Family Driver-SS P9T; Cook/Allaround Maid (4 persons) SS P5T. 2600 Legarda Sampaloc Mla.

Med Tech S.F.Lic 250D.PLUSALW Call 7111967/7126452 Add 2640 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz

OFC STAFF ! Col grad/lev. call MS. FAITH @ 7492993

•Ofc Staff 9134470 LEI•

Ofc staff 9134470 Rain

OFFC STAFF 18-45 y/o col. grad /lev call MSLANSEL@7492993

Office Staff 913-4470 VIE

SALES REP. For Sch. & Ofc Supplies F/P time M/F Call 366-8201

Teachers-HIGH SCHOOL / Elem Presch Call 3742840

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

INDUSTRIAL SALES ENGINEERS and TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES

APPLY IN PERSON WITH YOUR RESUMÉ, PICTURES, POLICE/NBI CLEARANCE AT
BROWNHILLS INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CORP.
Unit A-115 Hillcrest Condominium
1616 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 721-7401, 726-8607
Look for Ms. Rebecca Jamco

MACHINE SHOP MANAGER
To Handle
MANUFACTURING PROJECTS
Experienced in operating shop machines, good in human relationships, (able to drive, a plus). High pay, great future, call 714-1074 Leah or Ana for appointment. Onward Enterprises, No. 4, Lantawan St., Quezon City

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
INDUSTRY & INVESTMENTS BUILDING
385 GIL J. PUYAT AVE.
MAKATI CITY

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of VITARICH CORPORATION with office address at Abangan Sur, Marilao, Bulacan for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, for Aqua Feeds Expansion Project at a capacity of 24,480 Metric Tons per year and with plant site at Abangan Sur, Marilao, Bulacan has been officially accepted on April 26, 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication

Issued this 26th day of April 2001.

(Sgd) C.O. ANGELES
Director
Legal Services Department

(PDI-May 7, 2001)

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And Good 2nd Hand
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At low prices
Contact Tel# 723-8408 ask for Jho

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MALE/FEMALE

SECRETARY 20-25 YO Coll Grad T 366-8201

WANTED DESIGNER Angeles City based leading exporter of iron furniture, accesories & basketware needs experienced designer for immediate employment. Apply at 4190 Zeppelin St., Henson Ville Angeles City. Tel. 045 -3224137 045- 8923734 email. alhandex @mozcom.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Specialized in USA/ Japan/ Canada & Other Int'l Tourist VISA & Canadian Immigrant/ Student VISA Asst. Call Marikina Main Office 934-2070/ 71 / 72 Pasig Branch 642-2436

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Covering the period:
Apr. 22-30, 2001

Group 1-6	P28.80/Unit
Group 7	P18.80/Unit
Group 8-10	P18.65/Unit
Group 11-12	P17.20/Unit
Group 13	P13.50/Unit
Group 14-15	P11.25/Unit
Group 16-19	P10.95/Unit
Group 20-21	P10.00/Unit

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Note: As of April 15, 2001, 98% of TGS Subscribers have converted to TGS Gold, w/c publishes the Patronage Bonus at this website: www.geocities.com/trinet inc/ Due to this conversion and to encourage further use of the internet, notice on patronage bonus will only be posted at the above website effective May 14, 2001.
TriNet
578-8398 / 578-8399
Fax 535-0652

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

CAP educ'l plan ready 2 use 230th neg. (0917)492-4408

Free Home-Based E-Commerce Business with Free Computer Start at P15T to P25T Only Call 687-4311 0919-5924258 0919-2123230

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RTW / Swimsuits 727-4934

RTW Cash/Consign 373-8821

TShirt Sale 4383147

NOTICE OF LOSS

BPI Stock Cert. 00149064 in the name Ma. Theresa B. Rama has been declared lost. (PDI-May 7,14,21 & 28 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

PHILIPPINE HANSE SHIP AGENCY, INC.

LICENSE NO.	168-SB-091600-R	VALID UNTIL:	23 SEP 2002
POEA ACC NO	19166-11	VALID UNTIL:	09 AUG 2001
ISO9002 Certificate No	953576		

FOR MAY AND JUNE DEPLOYMENT

FOR LPG VESSEL

CHIEF OFFICER **SECOND ENGINEER**
SECOND OFFICER **CHIEF COOK**

FOR LPG VESSEL - NIS REGISTER

SECOND ENGINEER **FOURTH ENGINEER**

FOR CHEMICAL TANKER

THIRD OFFICER **BOSUN**

YOU MAY APPLY IN PERSON FROM 0900 - 1800 FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY AND 0900 - 1200 ON SATURDAYS AT:

GERMANAVIS COURT
Evangelista corner Gen. Tinio Streets, Bangkal, Makati City
or
YOU MAY TRANSMIT YOUR BIO-DATA THRU FAX NO.: 889-2707 or BY EMAIL: PHILHANS@TRI-ISYS.COM

MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITERS
NO FEES WILL BE CHARGED TO ALL APPLICANTS
THIS AD IS APPROVED BY POEA

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) invites interested bidders to submit Application for Prequalification or Eligibility and subsequently to bid, if qualified for the hereunder projects:

1. Name of Project
   A. Thermoplastic Repainting of Runway 13/31
   B. Verification of Operational Restriction and Renewal of Pavement Markings at NAIA Terminal 1 (ICT and IPT Aprons)
2. Contract Budget
   A. PhP 2,749,553.93
   B. PhP 4,206,624.37
3. Minimum Equipment/Appliance Requirement (for either project)

2 Units	Truck mounted kneading machines
2 Units	10cm. Hand-pushed type applicators
2 Units	30cm. Hand-pushed type applicators
2 Units	45cm. Hand-pushed type applicators
1 Unit	Mechanical Paint Removing Machines
1 Unit	Vacuum Sweeper (leased or owned)

4. Experience Requirement (for either project):
   a. Applicant must possess at least two (2) years experience in thermoplastic marking application for airport runways, taxiways and aprons
   b. Applicant must have an over-all experience of at least five (5) years in thermoplastic marking technology and industry.
   c. Product must bear ISO Certification for Quality

Forms for application for Prequalification/Eligibility may be secured from the Office of the Assistant General Manager for Operations 2nd Floor, MIAA Administration Building, NAIA Metro Manila from May 4-11, 2001 upon presentation of letter of intent. Deadline for the submission of duly accomplished Prequalification/Eligibility Form shall be on May 18, 2001.

Official Bid Documents will be issued only to pre-qualified contractors upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PhP 1,500.00) for each project. The time and date for the submission and opening of bids, pre-bid conference/s and other affairs concerning the project shall be announced and confirmed in the Notice of Prequalification and Bid Bulletins.

The MIAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids duly received, waive any minor defect in the proposals, accept the offer that will be evaluated to be the most advantageous to the Authority nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) BIENVENIDO O. MANGA
Chairman, PBAC-I

(PDI--May 3 & 7, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Manila

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROPOSED NATIONAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (PHASE 1. NRIMP-1)
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS (BIIPS)

REBID-FINANCIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Contract/Bid No. BIIPS-E05

This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice of this project that appears in *Development Business* No. 597 of March 31, 1999.

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) toward the cost of the National Road Improvement and Management Program, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of the proposed loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation to bid is issued. The Department of Public Works and Highways invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for provision of the Financial Information Management System project. The implementation will occur in the Central Office, sixteen (16) Regional Offices, and two (2) pilot District Offices. The delivery/customization/implementation period is anticipated to be 24 months beginning in November, 2001.

Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, January 1995 (revised January and August 1996, September 1997 and January 1999), and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Public Works and Highways (location and phone number provided below) and inspect the Bidding Documents from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily.

A complete set of the bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders from June 7, 2001, on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 5,000 (plus postal charges of PhP 500 (inland) or PhP 2,000 (overseas). The method of payment will be cash or cashier's check in favor of the Department of Public Works and Highways. The document may be obtained in person from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the address below or will be sent by courier (DPWH will not be responsible for the loss by the courier).

All bids will have to be accompanied by a bid security of a minimum of 2% of the Bidders price as specified in the bidding documents and will have to be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 AM, August 2, 2001. Late bids will be rejected.

The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is either covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder and (ii) that violations are considered fraud, which is, among other remedies, punishable by potential blacklisting from participation in future World Bank financed procurements.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below on that day immediately thereafter.

The Department of Public Works and Highways reserves the right to accept or reject in part or in full any or all of the offers without assigning any reason thereof.

Undersecretary MANUEL M. BONOAN
Department of Public Works and Highways
Chairman NRIMP Special PBAC
Attn: PM Antonio V. Molano. Jr.
Team Leader PBAC-TWG
5th Floor Central Office
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area
Manila, Philippines
Tel.. (632) 304-3301
Fax: (632) 304-3018

(PDI -- May 7, 10 & 17, 2001)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, M.M.
Tel. No.: 555-0254 / 845-0832

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC) invites accredited Contractors to submit sealed bids for the following requirements:

PROJECT	Pre-Bid Meeting	Pre-Qualification Deadline	Bid Deadline
1. Security Services (Metro Manila) WO-01-016	May 10, 2001 (2:00 PM)	May 15, 2001	May 31, 2001 (2:00 PM)
2. Security Services Provincial WO-01-022	May 10, 2001 (2:30 PM)	May 15, 2001	May 31, 2001 (2:00 PM)
3. Design, Layout & Printing of 2000 PNOC Annual Report W0-01-017	May 15, 2001 (2:00 PM)	May 22, 2001	May 31, 2001 (2:00 PM)

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC - Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00, which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before the set deadline. Failure to pre-qualify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

For purposes of clarifying issues, interested parties are encouraged to attend the pre-bid meeting as scheduled.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.
Senior Vice President
Legal, Admin., and Estate
Management Services

(PDI--May 6 & 7, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

PHILIPPINES 2000
Sama Sama sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Kalihim
Office of the Secretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports is inviting all DECS Accredited Suppliers for the Installation of Network System for Communications at the Office of the Secretary.

All interested suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting May 7 to 15, 2001 at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Rm 112 A. Mabini Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

A pre-bid conference will be held on May 20, 2001, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on May 29, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO S. PANGAN
Undersecretary

(PDI--May 5, 6 & 7, 2001)

MOTHER'S DAY *Special*

Warm your mother's heart with your deeply felt love note telling her how special she is to you.

On **May 13, Mother's Day, INQUIRER Classifieds** will highlight a *"Mother's Day special section"* for personal ads dedicated to the first woman in all our lives at a discounted rate of **P50** per line or **P125** per column centimeters.

For more information, visit any INQUIRER branch or call **897-2535.**

- Prices are VAT exclusive
- Rate is applicable on the May 13 issue only

SAMPLE ADS

Happy Mother's Day Mom!

love,
Issa

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P550 vat inclusive

Happy Mother's Day Nanay Thank you for everything. I love you. Rose

size: 3 lines
cost: P165 vat inclusive

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
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Trunk Line: 897-8808
locals 514, 516, 237, 243
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• 892-5578
makati_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

Cubao Branch:
912-9008 to 10
cubao_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

Kalaw Branch:
528-0213 • 527-3342
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Megamall Branch:
635-0219 • 637-2008
• 632-0220
sm_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

LEARNING STYLES EXPERT A HIT IN MANILA

Dr. Rita Dunn (center), director of the International Learning Styles Network based at St. John's University in New York, warmly poses with the participants of the second national education conference held recently at the Philippine Trade Training Center. Dunn was the main speaker of the conference, which was attended by 2,000 participants and was organized by the Center for Learning and Teaching Styles, Philippines headed by Henry S. Tenedero.

Welcome Guests & Participants
to
BELGOSA'S WRITERS' FORUM

WRITERS' FORUM

The Quick Red Fox–Editorial, Design and Layout (QRF-EDL), the editorial group of Team Belgosa, recently held a writers' forum at Omni Business Center, Makati City. The participants were writers and contributors of instructional and academic materials like the 'Damath', a mathematics magazine for high school; 'Junior Damath' for elementary mathematics; and 'Dyornal', a social studies magazine for high school. QRF-EDL designed this first-of-a-series gathering to build better relationships among writers and provide a venue for the refinement of systems and procedures.

NATASHA DEALERS WELCOME 2001

Natasha, the nationwide direct selling company, recently celebrated the Year of the Snake and feted its Top 40 dealers at Exotic Restaurant in Pila, Laguna. Highlights of the affair were a buffet luncheon, awarding ceremonies, fun and games and photo sessions with Samantha the resident python. Shown posing with Samantha are top dealers Gilda Estuye, Joy Imperio, Evelyn Rizo, Joy de Silva, Vilma Arellano, Messrs. Rizo and Estuye, Marietta Tubog, Susan Villano, Dolly Galdo and Molex Mojares.

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☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
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Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

In memory of our beloved

Lourdes Martinez Garcia

who joined our Creator on May 4, 2001

Her sister,
Nena Martinez-Hierro,

her children,
Miguel & Catalina, Nena, Manuel & Josefina,
Reuben & Lina, Dolly, Carmelita & Pepito Marquez,
Leticia & Delfin Villaflor, Elvira & Marte Lubag,
Federico & Gloria, Jose & Elsa, and
Alice & Menandro Nazareno;

her grandchildren,
Gracia, Greg, Jojo, Rohana, Alip, Anisha, Butch
Joyce, Gladys, Portia, Bobby, Ofelia, Ricky, Nikko, Cheska
Carmen, Cecilia, Chito, Jean, Del, Alvin, Leslie Ann,
Miguel, Anna, Richie, Carlo,
JG, Eric, Melissa, Glenn

her great grandchildren,
Christian, Javier, Colleen, Joshua, Justin, Taylor, Hannah,
Jocel, Eloisa, Chic, Patty, Jhiline and Nicolas

request the readers for prayers
for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at the
Capilla De San Francisco,
Sanctuario de San Antonio,
Forbes Park, Makati.

A Mass will be held at 9 o'clock in the morning
on May 9 at Sanctuario De San Antonio.
Interment will take place on the same day
at 2 o'clock in the afternoon
at the Naic Catholic Church,
Nazarene Eternal Gardens, Naic, Cavite.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Bantay Bata 163
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ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation, 9244101 loc 2111 and 2103

JAIME S. MEJIA, SR.

Passed away in the Grace of the Lord on the 5th of May 2001
at the age of 80.

His beloved wife **FRANCISCA HIZON MEJIA**; children, **JAIME, JR., & AGNES DOMINGUEZ, JUDE, SATURNINO & CRISTINA BAUTISTA, GABRIEL & ELSA MARIANO, MARCELA & HECTOR OSI,** and **FRANCISCO**; grandchildren, **OLIA, KITTINA, DIEGO, HAJIME, MIKEY, ISHKA, TROY, RENZO, GABRIEL & JIMBOY**; request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

He lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels.

Interment is tentatively set on Saturday morning the 12th of May 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.

"I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in Me,
even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me
will never die." John 11:25-26

ANGELITA M. HIZON

Peacefully joined her Savior on May 4, 2001
at the age of 66.

Her loving husband **JOSE**; children **JOSEL, ALELI, JESS, CESCILLE** and **ROMMEL, JUN** and **PENG, JHOY** and **TING**; grandson **RICARDO JOSE**; brother and sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends mourn her passing away but celebrate her eternal rest with the Lord Jesus.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina is set on Saturday morning, May 12, 2001.

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I am
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the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

DR. AUGUSTO V. GOCO

President - **Luna Goco Colleges**
President - **Colegio de Nuestra Sra. Del Pilar**
President - **AVG Super Ricemill**
President - **First Oriental Mindoro Integrated Rice & Corn Association**
Director - **Luna-Goco Medical Center**

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 4, 2001
at the age of 67.

His bereaved wife **Dra. Emelita Luna-Goco**; loving children **Lorman, Angelito, Marlon, Ma. Paz, Ma. Lourdes, Ma. Estrella**; other children **Vernon & Guia, Lowell & Myla**; brothers and sisters-in-law; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence in Lalud, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 8, 2001 at the Calapan Memorial Garden after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Sto. Niño Cathedral.

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LOMA CEMETERY AFTER THE
1:00 PM MASS.

Lt. Col. Macario C. Valdez (Ret.)

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 3, 2001
at the age of 73.

His loving wife Aurea Valdez (†); children Tony & Mariben, Nesty & Maggie; grandchildren Dennis, Rina, Tonette & Colline request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

His remains lie in state at their residence at 14 F. Caruncho Street, Caniogan, Pasig City.

Interment will be on May 8, 2001 after the 2PM Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish, Pasig City.

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Responsible lending critical to debt cuts

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund on Friday said the success of debt reduction initiatives in poor countries depended largely on responsible lending and more access to foreign markets.

The Washington-based lender, in an evaluation of its debt reduction initiatives for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries, found that HIPC debt relief could provide a good basis for long-term debt sustainability.

While sound economic policies, fiscal discipline and reforms on the part of HIPC countries remained essential, the fund said lenders play an important role in the success of debt reduction.

The fund said lenders should open foreign markets to exports from poor countries, practice disciplined lending and offer technical assistance to poor countries in debt management.

The HIPC program was set in motion in 1996 by the IMF and the World Bank to eliminate unsustainable debt in the world's poorest nations.

The fund added that financial assistance should continue and be coordinated with debt relief to better support investment and growth in poor countries, the IMF said.

The lender also said debt relief should be non-concessional, similar to grants, and that it would consider further debt relief in exceptional cases.

Once the debt relief programs are completed, the IMF said economies of the HIPC program should be monitored so as to develop an early warning system for potential economic instability.

Last week, ministers of the Group of Seven, the world's seven largest economies, asked the IMF and the bank to develop such early warning systems that could have perhaps prevented the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98. *Reuters*

HK economic forum delegates seen shopping until they drop

HONG KONG—Wealthy guests attending the global economic forum in Hong Kong next week are expected to embark on a shopping bonanza, providing the territory with extra millions, a report said Saturday.

While the average overseas visitor would spend around HK$11,300 (US$1,451) during a three-day conference, it is estimated the 700 guests will splash out more than HK$56,000 during the four-day stay.

Suzanne Dennis of the Hong Kong Tourism Board told the South China Morning Post that the total spending by the guests, 150 of whom are expected to bring their spouses, could reach HK$48 million.

Dennis said this figure was based on the fact that the forum was an exclusive invitation only event, with only the top representatives from companies with a minimum net worth of US$5 billion being invited.

"These delegates are spending 4.8 nights on average some of them will stay longer as it's close to the weekend. So they are here for a bit longer, which is good for Hong Kong as they will spend more money," she said.

Hong Kong has long been a popular shopping destination for foreign tourists.

The HKTA expects some 14.075 million tourists to visit the territory in 2001, a rise of 7.8 percent from 2000, despite growing competition from other Asian destinations and continuing regional economic uncertainty.

HKTA is also forecasting an 8.8-percent growth in tourism receipts during the year to HK$66.95 billion (US$8.59 billion). *AFP*

Pirelli interested in Lucent unit

MILAN—Italian cables and tyre group Pirelli chair and chief executive Marco Tronchetti Provera said his group was still interested in the fiber optics division of Lucent Technologies Inc.

"Lucent currently has underway the sale of part of its activities and we, like other competitors, are watching this process with interest," he replied to reporters' questions about the possibility of Pirelli acquiring the Lucent unit.

He was speaking to reporters while attending a presentation of Pirelli's new research and development division Pirelli Labs.

In recent weeks, it has been speculated Pirelli was on a short list along with Corning, Alcatel and JDS Uniphase for the acquisition of Lucent's fiber optic cable activities, valued at some $8-10 billion. Pirelli has previously declined to comment on the talk.

Talks between Lucent and France's Alcatel on a full merger recently fell through because the two disagreed on a valuation of the company and Lucent was apprehensive about getting approval in Washington for the deal, industry sources said last week.

The sources said Alcatel is proceeding with a $5 billion bid for Lucent's fiber-optic cable unit, however. *Reuters*

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BUSINESS

Banks' bad loan ratio rose to 16.48% in February

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE AMOUNT of bad loans carried by commercial banks worsened further in February to 16.48 percent of their total loan portfolio.

This was up from 16 percent the previous month as the number of non-performing loans rose while the combined loan portfolio continued to contract.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas blamed a 1.6 percent or P25.5 billion decline in loan portfolio while the NPLs rose by P3.4 billion or 1.3 percent.

The BSP admitted that if inter-bank loans were taken out from total loan portfolio, the ratio of bad loans would have been higher at 18.16 percent from the January level of 17.73 percent.

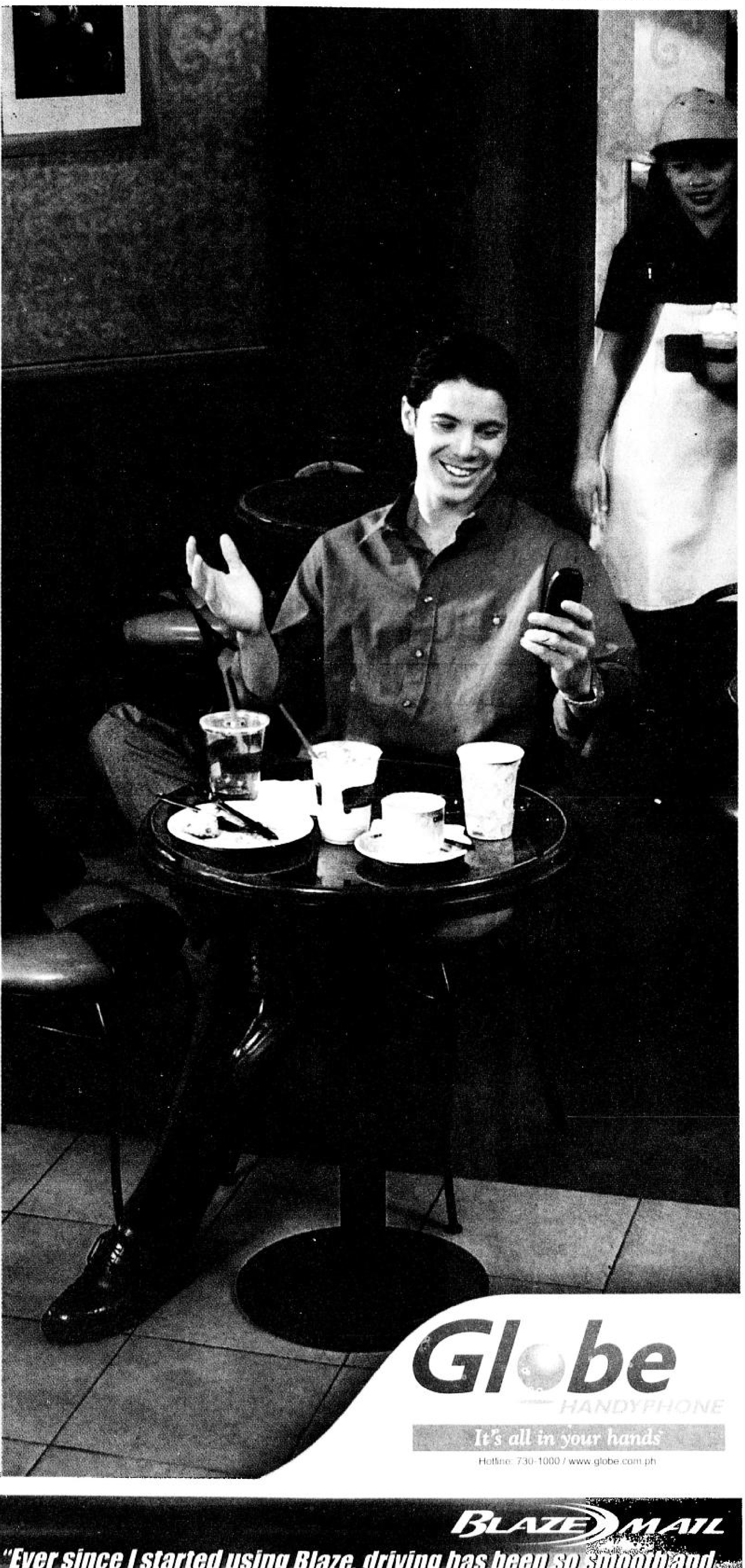
Non-performing loans refer to those accounts whose principal or interest has been unpaid for 30 days or more after due date.

The International Monetary Fund believes the level of bad loans would continue to rise in the succeeding months "as the economy feels the lag effect of the financial crisis."

Bank analysts also said that companies would feel the lag impact of the political crisis last year and were now having problems coping with their obligations with banks.

Gross restructured loans slightly declined by 0.1 percent to P98.49 billion as the level of foreclosed assets improved by 0.8 percent of total assets to P130.8 billion.

The BSP noted the quality of assets of banks deteriorated also as the non-performing assets ratio rose to 13.2 percent in February from 12.9 percent a month ago.



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Beating the odds to build a natural gas wonder

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

ABOUT 80 kilometers out to sea northwest of Palawan stands a structure that evokes a sense of awe not only because of its size and location but also because of the many unequaled challenges that were overcome just to put it there.

From the Malampaya Topsides Platform, only the straggling outcrop of Palawan's landmass and a couple of smaller, older platforms above dying oil fields can be seen.

"I never thought we could have something like that here," a veteran sailor says as the ship carrying members of the media circles the platform.

One cannot help but gaze at the structure in wonder, especially when one realizes that three kilometers below the surface lie 2.6 trillion cubic feet of ethane, methane and other compounds.

These compounds could easily spoil the marine paradise, but these could also just as easily provide a crucial boost to the nation's economy.

When the project goes full swing, it was estimated that the natural gas that would be extracted from the Malampaya field would replace 65,000 barrels of imported oil daily, saving the country millions of dollars in oil imports.

As one approaches the platform, one realizes the immensity—literal and otherwise—of Malampaya's integrated rig, a physical testament to the birth of the local natural gas industry.

String of world records

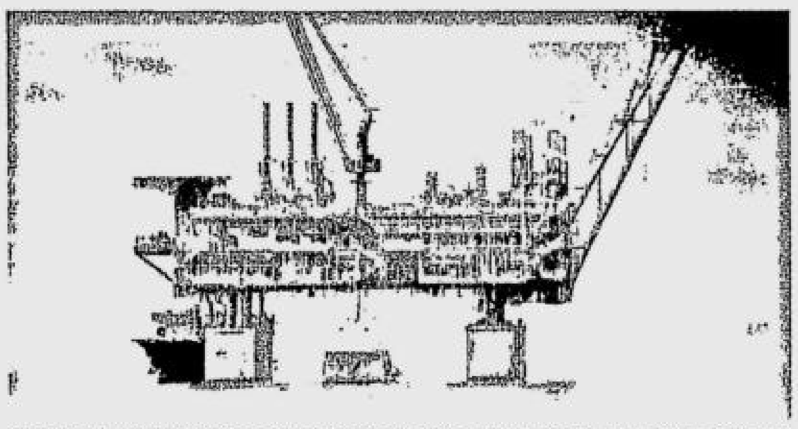
Shell Philippines Exploration BV, operator of the Malampaya deep water gas to power project, takes pride in having built the heaviest and largest integrated platform topsides deck ever built in the Asia-Pacific region.

Lifting the 11,500-ton, 28-meter high topsides from the dockyard in Singapore where it was built was also a world record in itself. Add to that the treacherous journey of more than 2,200 km to Palawan.

Below the platform lies another structure that's one for the books. Shell built a concrete gravity structure that acts as the platform's support base as well as the temporary storage facility for condensate, a petroleum derivative, to be extracted from the field.

Finishing the construction of the CGS in Subic three months ahead

BEATING/ C3



THE MALAMPAYA Topsides Platform off northwest Palawan is the biggest of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region.
EDWIN BACASMAS

FUJIMOTO

Expat manager trusts locals to get job done

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

CHIYUKI Fujimoto, general manager of the de luxe Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila, cannot understand why many of the country's top hotels and restaurants hire expatriates to manage most, if not all, of the key divisions of their establishments.

MANAGEMENT STYLES

He is surprised because he is convinced that the local experts are equipped with more than enough skills to handle the responsibilities as well as, maybe even better than, their foreign counterparts.

"I believe in the local experts because they are the ones who know the market better than anyone else. I understand that foreign hotel chains want foreigners to be their general managers because of policy, but for the other positions, there is no need to put in foreign talent," Fujimoto says.

Fujimoto surely practices what he preaches as he is the lone expatriate among the senior management staff of Dusit Hotel. The fact that Dusit managed to remain competitive in the hotel industry dominated by foreign-owned hotels here and overseas proves him right.

Fujimoto believes in a management system that is based on mutual trust and respect. He says his long experience in the hospitality industry taught him that people work better and more effectively if they feel that they have the trust and confidence of the management.

His staff says Fujimoto gives them enough rope to hang themselves with, so to speak. This means they are given enough room to act on their own, take the initiative and devise ways and means to meet key objectives for the year.

Fujimoto puts his foot down only when he feels that a manager or an employee oversteps his bounds or is not doing what he is supposed to do.

He does not let people who abuse his trust get off easily.

Fujimoto was born in Hokkaido, Japan, but he "no longer considers himself too much of a Japanese" because of the many years that he spent abroad. He left Japan after finishing senior high school and got college education from different universities in Europe.

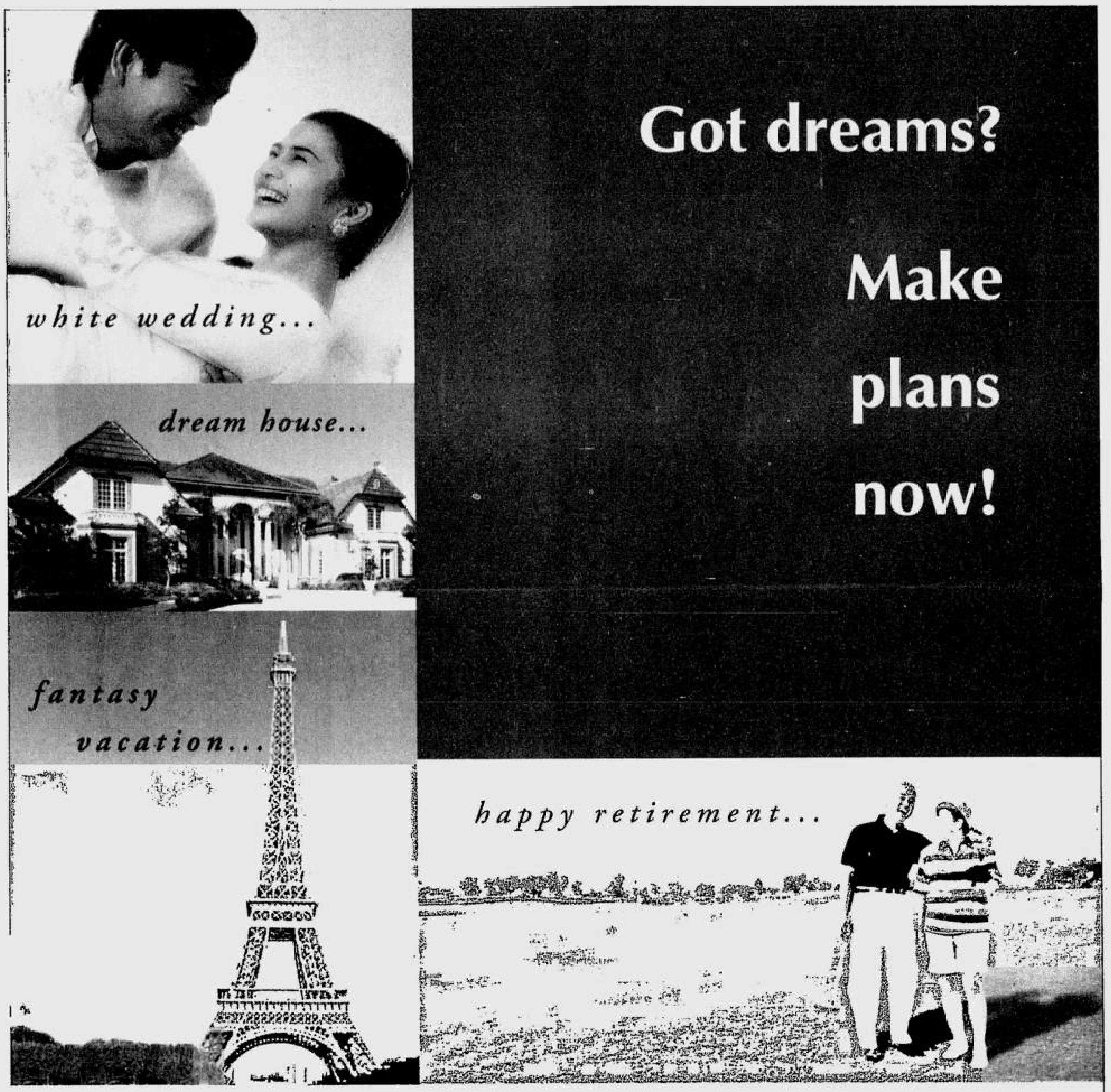
He went to the University of Fribourg Suisse in Switzerland, the Bell School in London, University of Madrid, Spain, Lemania Commerce School in Switzerland and finally the Lausanne Hotel School also in Switzerland.

Fujimoto went back to Japan to work for the Nikko chain first in Osaka where he stayed from 1982 to 1985 but he was destined to move to foreign shores.

He was assigned to the Hotel Nikko in Paris as assistant director of food and beverage and then to Mexico and Paris. His last assignment was as general manager of Hotel Nikko in Shanghai before he was asked to transfer to the Philippines.

Fujimoto says it has been two years since he assumed his post here but the years passed seemed to have just flashed before his eyes because he feels at home in the country. He is even said to be considering plans to spend his retirement years in the country.

"I like the people here and we are able to work well together. Having worked in so many countries and dealing with many cultures, I did not find it very difficult to adjust to life here," he says.



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Required culture for out-of-the-box thinking

MAPPING FUTURES

Franco G. del Rosario

WITH the fresh optimism in the air but cognizant that the Philippines is still in an economic crisis, many business executives are busy working on how to reposition their businesses for global competitiveness.

There are companies that have invested in state-of-the-art technology, redesigned their business processes, flattened, re-engineered, reorganized, or some combination of the above. However, in spite of these initiatives, there are companies still searching for programs that could accelerate the growth of their business.

At the end of the day, the name of the game is maximizing one's competitive advantage.

Except for technology, these are structural changes. Technology is not economically feasible for all companies. Sometimes, structural changes need to be followed with operational changes such as in the way products and services are marketed. With e-business and trade liberalization, it is better to plan for more intense competition.

Are there companies that continue to do well, economic crisis notwithstanding? The answer is yes! Well, how do they do it? These are tough times requiring unusual thinking.

I submit they are not just merely doing the same things better, nor are they just working on the right things. Rather, they are developing their plans with some new ways of thinking. In this article, I will share the pre-requisites for those desiring to embark on "out-of-the-box thinking" or "OBT" (for short) in their companies.

Creativity is key

A vast company like IBM is normally perceived to be rigid and bureaucratic. It does not seem logical to think that it fosters creativity in its people. I lived in the US for over 12 years and all that time, I worked for IBM. I have witnessed how IBM deliberately creates a climate that supports OBT. IBM is passionate about employee involvement. This is truly one area that management does "walk-the-talk." The reverse is true. Employees do think that the most important part of their job is providing inputs to business issues. But it does not stop there. IBM actually acts upon these inputs.

Diversity as a weapon

IBM leverages its mega-size in fostering OBT. "IBMers" come from all backgrounds and move all over the world with the company. In this way, IBM is then able to maximize OBT within the company. It has diversity councils in place at most IBM sites. These councils educate the employees, paving the way for the effective implementation of the sound ideas of all employees.

In fact, IBM is very serious about diversity that management is required to take certain diversity classes as well as to regularly offer them to employees.

As a result, IBM receives the full benefit of a having a diverse group of people working in synergy with the company vision. This is particularly helpful in performing the cost-benefit analysis of new ideas.

Training is continuous for all employees

At one of the classes I attended while at IBM, one instructor half-jokingly said "life is an education then you die." IBM is a believer that creative skills can be learned and honed, techniques can be taught and its people's creativity can be enhanced with practice.

This is how IBM cultivates OBT. IBM employees are provided with knowledge through resources like up-to-date libraries, classes, tuition refund program and educational leaves.

Hand in hand with education is the promotion of communication skills. Giving presentations to one person or to a hundred is a way of life for "IBMers." They have a winning syndrome that it is almost impossible to be promoted at IBM unless one has the ability to "net" out the salient points clearly and concisely. This phenomenon facilitates OBT.

Risk taking and empowerment

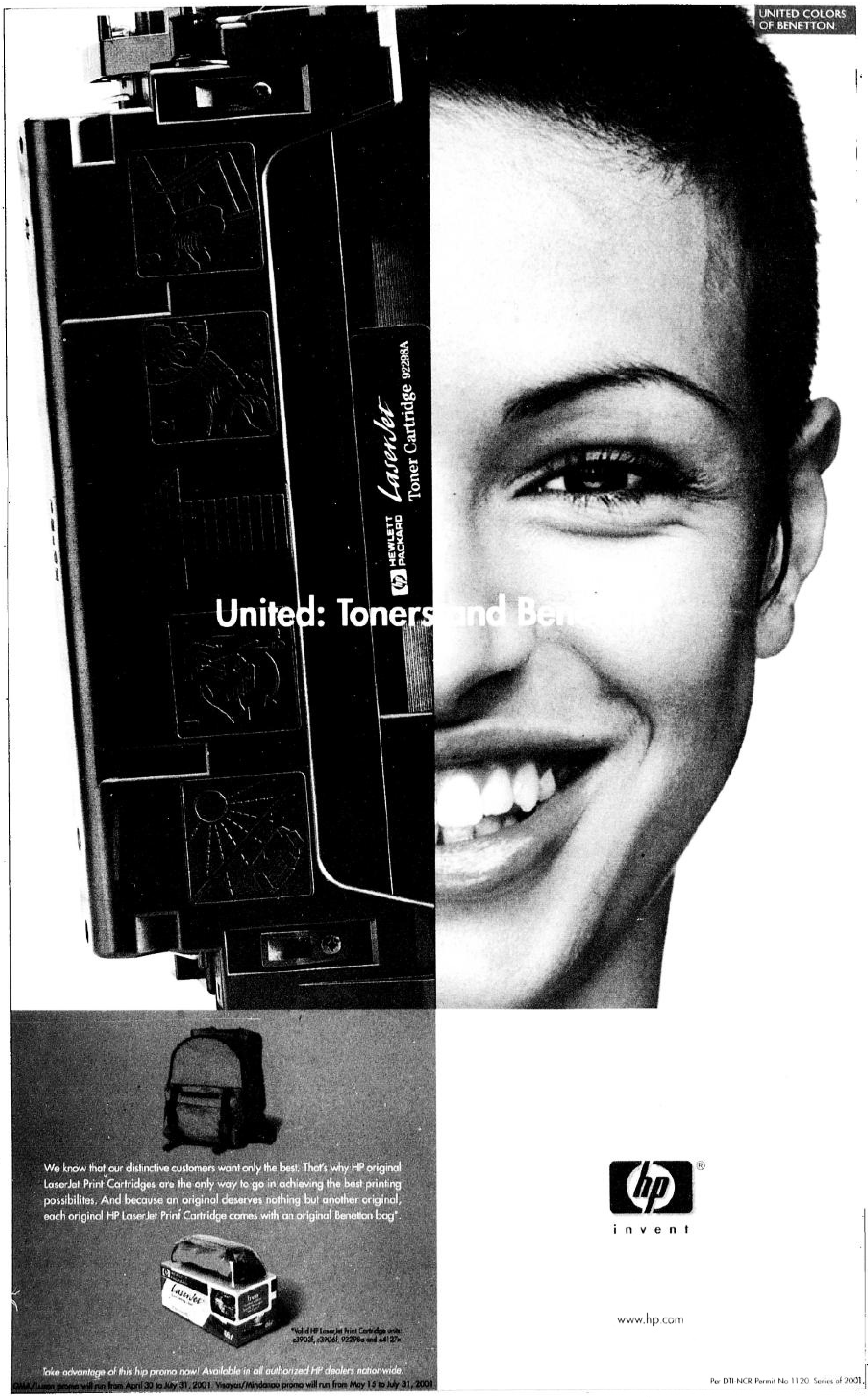
OBT becomes a powerful tool for IBM particularly when it is combined with risk taking, empowerment and financial recognition. Precisely OBT demands the idea to be different. A new and different idea is always a risk. Healthy risks are calculated risks. In the final analysis, it boils down to deciding if the gain far outweighs the pain.

At IBM, there is no such thing as "if it ain't broken, don't fix it." Instead I saw more people perennially asking "what if?" There is a tireless effort to search for options. These options are regularly revisited in case changes have occurred which may make them viable anew.

Conclusion

OBT in our current difficult business climate is not only essential for success but could very well be the answer to stay ahead in these days of unrelenting and brutal competition. OBT gives you the head start required to reposition your business for global competitiveness.

(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and chair of Sharexchange Brokers, Inc. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec-@globe.com.ph)



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Say goodbye to London's oil traders

LONDON—The striped jackets, cryptic hand signals and raucous bellowing could soon be a thing of the past.

London's International Petroleum Exchange (IPE), one of the last bastions of floor trading, will in a matter of months close its doors on two decades of so-called open-outcry dealing and go electronic.

"Our days are looking numbered down here," said ABN Amro broker Steve Rout. "We're still trying to digest it. It will be very sad. Within a year it'll be onto a screen, so we'll just have to wait and see how that develops. There are a lot of unhappy people down here."

Dealers are expecting the IPE to move with the times as part of a combination with a US electronic exchange called Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), which has put in a take-over bid valuing the IPE at between $40 and $140 million (45 and 155 million euros).

The IPE would thus follow the London Stock Exchange, the LIFFE futures exchange and numerous commodities markets in the move to electronic systems, which offer cheaper costs and more efficient market places.

The two oil exchanges said their tie-up would ally ICE's technological expertise with IPE's established positions as the oil world's premier trading forum.

"The combination of ICE's state-of-the-art technology platform, growing volumes and committed shareholder base, with the IPE's established liquidity and brand name, management expertise and status as an exchange makes this an extremely attractive transaction," said ICE chief executive Jeffrey Sprecher.

End to old system

Cutting through the PR-speak, this means an end to the cut and thrust of the noisy, exhilarating pit system of trading, which is expected to be subsumed into the superior technology of the ICE electronic platform.

Instead of a client calling a broker, who then executes his order through a pit trader, transactions under the electronic system are routed through computers.

This means that brokers manning the phones at the IPE will retire to learn how to use a mouse, while pit traders will hang up their stripey jackets and try to forget all those peculiar hand signals that can move the market at the twitch of a wrist. Widespread job losses are feared.

"It will be a sad day when the market shuts its door," said Robert Laughlin, a broker who has worked at the IPE ever since it opened its doors in 1980.

"You'll miss the camaraderie. You'll miss coming in every morning knowing something new will happen today," said Laughlin.

Inevitably, the anticipation of the end of two decades of glorious chaos at the IPE had many brokers reminiscing about their finest hour.

When Iraqi tanks rumbled into Kuwait on the morning of Aug. 2, 1990, it was not just the Middle East that descended into turmoil.

"Anyone who has memories of the IPE will remember the day of the Gulf War," said Laughlin. "Initially there was panic, but you'll always look back and say 'I was there then.'"

"The day of the invasion was a surprise to everyone. I was awaken at 2 in the morning and immediately came to work. You could not buy oil at any price. The market was going crazy. We would work five days a week from 5 in the morning till midnight, trying to work out what we had done.

"In the days of the Gulf War, the IPE was something that had to be seen to be believed."

But the ICE-IPE integration is expected to take months to achieve, leaving some brokers to note that rumors of the demise of pit trading were premature.

"We're not holding our breath," said Graham Flint. "We think we'll be around for a little while."

AFP

MAMAMAYAN MUNA
HINDI MAMAYA NA!

Beating the odds to build a natural gas wonder

A CLOSER look at the platform that weights 11,500 tons which sailed from Singapore last March and embarked on a 2,224 kilometer journey to its present site.

(From page C1)

of schedule and without injury is also a demonstration of efficiency hardly heard of in these parts.

This world record installation brings the upstream component of the $1.6-billion Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project to near completion and will soon offer a source of indigenous energy for one third of Luzon's power requirements.

Energy Secretary Lito Camacho described the Malampaya topsides as "very, very significant by sheer size alone, in terms of investment and technical complexity."

"This is the biggest facility of its kind in Asia, and it certainly puts the Philippines on the map of the oil and gas industry around the world," Camacho said.

The Malampaya Topsides will perform the crucial task of separating hydrocarbons from the wells into dry gas and condensate—the initial phase in the conversion of natural gas into usable energy.

Yet, rising about 50 meters from the surface, the platform and its support base are just the proverbial tip of the iceberg.

Deeper into the water are wells, pipelines, flow lines, and other structures that would bring out the natural gas from the bowels of the earth, keep it flowing and make it ready for commercial use.

Bringing out the gas

The gas field actually lies 30 km away from the platform and 823 meters below sea level. The depth and remoteness of the facility present unique problems to the operator.

Beyond the reach of sunlight and with water temperatures as low as 5 degrees Centigrade, materials can form inside the pipes and block the free flow of gas. To prevent this from happening, methanol—a solvent—would have to be injected regularly in each of Malampaya field's five wells.

Spex managing director David J. Greer said the team based the design of the Malampaya system on the experience and lessons learned from other subsea systems.

Greer said the full integration test of the subsea system was conducted on land before the offshore installation. And when the time came to turn to the sea, the facilities— manifolds, flowlines and all—were installed using robots operated via remote control from the surface.

Pipelines

After the separation of the hydrocarbons from the wells, the natural gas from the Malampaya field would then travel along 504 km, 24" diameter undersea pipeline all the way to the Onshore Gas Plant in Batangas where it will undergo further treatment.

The pipeline snakes its way between islands and through the ups and downs of the Manila Trench, which in some parts reach deeper than 600 meters. It is said to be the longest stretch of undersea cables in the world.

The gas has to be brought all the way across because the refinery capable of processing the gas is there and, more importantly, Malampaya's ready market is in Batangas.

Finding a ready market was crucial in the decision of the Malampaya proponents—Spex, Texaco Philippines and the state-run PNOC Exploration Corp.—to push through with the multi-billion-peso project, saying that the project would not be viable if there was no market to immediately receive the natural gas.

A ready market

The answer lies in the power sector, which agreed to build three power plants with a combined generating capacity of 2,700 megawatts that will run on natural gas. All three generators are in Batangas: 1,200 mw in Ilijan, 1,000 mw in Sta. Rita and 500 mw in San Lorenzo.

The Ilijan power plant project is a joint venture between state firm National Power Corp. and the consortium led by Korean Electric Power Corp. Sta. Rita and San Lorenzo, on the other hand, will be operated by the Lopez-controlled First Gas Power Corp.—a joint venture between Manila Electric Co. and British Gas.

The power plants and the Malampaya facilities are valued at $4.6 billion, making the deep water gas to power project the all-time, single-biggest investment in the country.

The government estimates that the output of the gas-fed generators would account for 30 percent of our total power requirements.

The gas would start flowing this June but it would be available to the power plants by October.

But operating power plants is not all that the natural gas can do. Experts say that natural gas be used as a substitute for liquefied petroleum gas used in cooking.

This means that households may soon become buyers of the Malampaya gas aside from industrial and commercial consumers.

Clean gas, clean Earth

An added benefit to using natural gas is its efficiency. It burns better than diesel or gasoline and contains lower levels of sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide.

Following environmental laws, then, would not be very hard for the Malampaya consortium to do as Shell country chair Oscar Reyes has emphasized.

The concept of sustainable development—that is, "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs"—guides the development of the Malampaya project.

As project leader, Shell has also been implementing livelihood and other service-oriented activities in the communities that contributed to the Malampaya project.

Shell, for instance, has committed to help upgrade the facilities of the Palawan Adventist Hospital, which is located in the outskirts of provincial capitol Puerto Princesa.

It has also helped transform the construction site of the central gravity structure in Subic into a healthy and self-sustaining community. Once a place of joblessness and of sickness, Sitio Agusuhin is now a malaria- and dengue-free haven.

Thanks to a bangus-farm put up with Shell's help, residents had been able to build houses made of strong wood where there used to be only nipa shanties.

Better living conditions also await those who would service the Malampaya platform.

Aside from the work areas and living quarters, the three-deck island is equipped with recreation and exercise facilities where workers can relax and enjoy themselves.

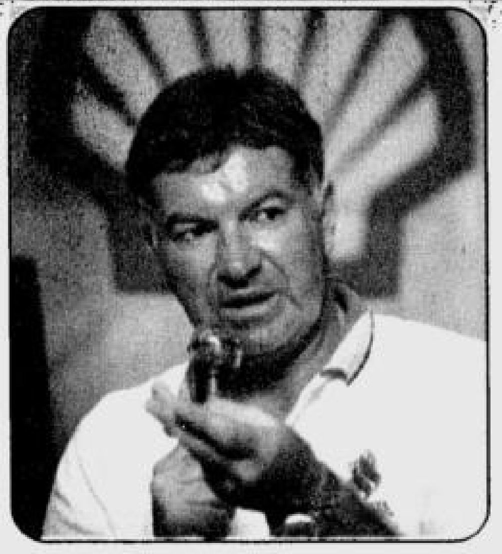
The consortium is also hiring veteran Filipino crew who would alternate two weeks of hard work and shore leave. This is a far cry from their overseas regimen where they work straight for one year and then have nothing to do the next year.

Going trans-Asean

With all the benefits from this indigenous source of energy, the consortium is ready to share the bounty with neighboring countries.

Rufino Bomasang, president of PNOC-EC, reveals that they talk with Malaysia's Petronas about the possibility of constructing a pipeline that would connect Palawan and Sabah.

This link would add to existing interconnections between similar projects within Southeast Asia, thus, would contribute to a possible network of natural gas projects called the Trans-Asean grid.



SHELL Exploration managing director David Greer says the project will give birth to the Philippines' natural gas industry.

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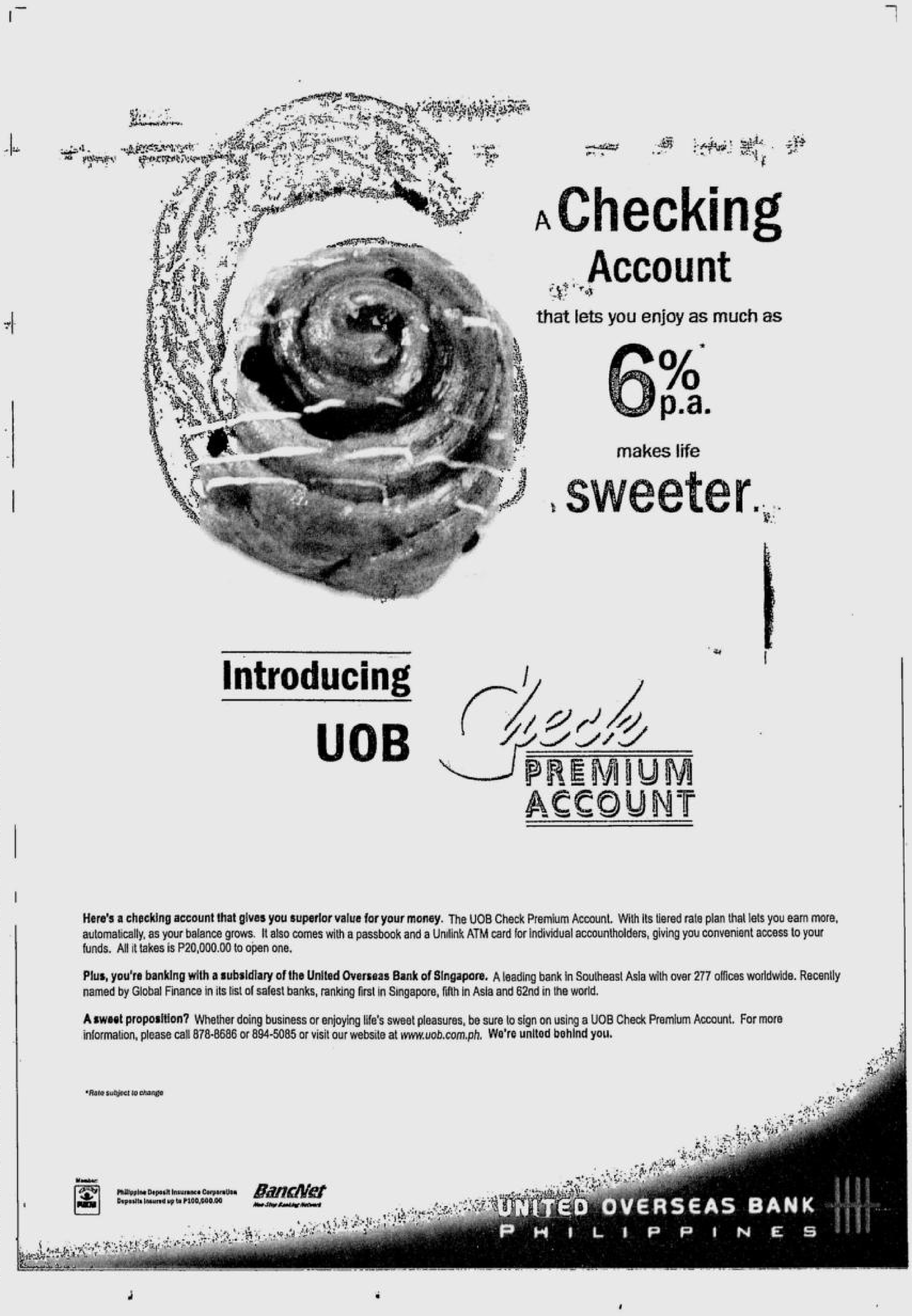

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FEELING HEAT

Venture capital squeezes telecom firms

By W. Bowman Cutter

VENTURE capital, long viewed as rather exotic by many in the telecom industry, is today seen by the industry as similar to an uninvited guest, one that might go away if ignored.

Nonetheless, it's making itself at home, as value shifts away from the idea of integration and toward modularization as an organizing concept for businesses. It's time for integrated telecommunications companies to face it: venture capital won't politely go away. The opportunities—and the weaknesses to be exploited—are too compelling.

As modular-based strategies take root and succeed, it becomes more difficult to predict how and when the next wave of integration will affect the industry. It seems likely, however, that the entire industry will pass through a process of disaggregation and modularization, with a new aggregation occurring later.

Incumbent telecommunications firms, more than any other players in the value chain, face difficult choices in getting from here to there.

Because information technologies have created world markets, many governments now rely entirely on private investment and ownership to spur new growth in what, for many, is the largest single segment of their national economies. At the same time, new technologies, lowered costs, and the changing capital markets are transforming both business and investment strategies.

Cost and control

The Industrial Revolution radically changed the costs entailed in transforming a set of inputs into an output. Scale and aggregation became the preferred model, which favored the creation of closed sets of systems and proprietary standards.

Companies existed as silos, relatively independent of one another. Along with this independent and monolithic business structure came enormous expenses for commanding and retaining control, costs that mounted exponentially over the last 150 years.

However, the cost-benefit analysis always worked in favor of taking on more general and administrative costs to assume more control. And as companies built their command-and-control empires through continued aggregation, large integrated companies in every industry created, in essence, a set of unintended conglomerates.

In today's continuing network revolution (embodied in the rising percentage of transactions occurring over electronic networks), the fundamental effect is the falling cost of all communications interaction.

New cost comparisons have been created, so that administration and management can be more reliably assessed. A second, less obvious result is more influential.

If the cost of transforming a set of inputs to create an output is relatively stable and the costs of interaction and transaction are declining rapidly, then disaggregation makes sense. The gain in the costs that can be controlled exceeds the loss in value from past aggregation.

Finally, the revolution facilitates a set of cost-to-value comparisons that were impossible in the past. In the past, the cost of effecting even the subtlest changes was so overwhelming, compared with the possible benefits, that few companies attempted such change.

With today's declines in the costs of interaction, we are seeing a rapidly increasing density of structures growing up between those rigid silos created during the Industrial Revolution.

CUTTER

Under these circumstances, new technologies can be seen as disruptive to the established, integrated telecommunications firms. This is one of the elements that make it possible for venture capital to fund and support new challengers in the industry.

Capital markets

Until about 1980, capital markets supplied what could be called indirect relationship capital. Most debt came from banks, and most equity capital came from retained earnings.

The equity market, of course, continued to function. But the role of the market remained indirect, limited to judging only the end result of all of the capital allocation decisions made by major companies. The shareholder was very much on the outside.

"Shareholder value," today an accepted part of the management lexicon, did not enter the business vocabulary until the mid-1980s.

Today, with a direct capital market system, most debt financing comes from the bond market, not the banks. Most equity is generated through equity markets. The roles of internal funds and cash flows have changed quite dramatically. As a result, the financial markets, and the equity markets in particular, now dominate global allocation of capital as the major source of funds.

More important, these markets are also the source of performance evaluation and discipline. Capital markets worldwide are now approximately 80 percent of world gross domestic product (GDP) and rising. In the United States, the capital markets, even after the April 2000 equity bust, are about 120 percent of GDP.

A new industry driver

Compared with other capital markets, then, venture capital is quite new. Warburg Pincus, one of the oldest firms, became a venture capital firm with an actual fund in 1971. Venture capital did not truly take off until 1978, and the industry did not have true scale until the early 1990s.

The real blastoff in scale occurred only in the last five years. Europe lags about 10 years in this growth. In most of Asia, venture capital has been developing only over the last two years. This investment change has not occurred at all in Japan.

The new venture capital environment has distinctive characteristics, including the high cost of capital. Our investors expect as much as 700 basis points above the public markets.

These investors want financial performance within a relatively short period. Warburg Pincus is among the longest holders in the industry, and our average holding is only about seven years. We are driven almost entirely by capital objectives.

One place where we differ quite fundamentally from a large integrated company is that we have no strategic objectives. We are, in fact, deeply suspicious of such objectives because we find they often become reasons for allocating capital in the absence of valid financial goals.

To succeed, venture capital investment requires exit mechanisms, such as today's new listings markets. The Nasdaq, the new listings market in Germany, and the new listings markets in Hong Kong and Japan all have been organized or reorganized in the past two years.

The scale of venture capital investment is mid-sized but growing. It would be quite unusual to see a single equity investment, for instance, of more than $750 million. Even a consortium of venture capitalists would have difficulty putting together more than $2 billion for a single investment.

The change in scale of venture capital investment has had two unanticipated and under-appreciated effects. First, it has supplied an entirely new model for innovation. The old model was closed—someone in a major company might have an idea or develop a technological innovation, and the company would finance and manage the introduction of that technology to fit with the rest of its offerings and strategies

The new technology would be nurtured and would grow within the company confines. For many years this was the prevalent model in most developed economies.

Under the new model, whether the people who have the ideas are in a major company, at an academic research institution, or elsewhere, they usually leave to seek angel funding, seed funding, or venture capital funding from people like us.

Except for scattered slow periods over the past 10 years, such entrepreneurs have easily found high-yield debt funding. The high-yield debt window was closed in the summer of 2000 but is likely to be open again in the fall.

Warburg Pincus raised several hundred million dollars for Covad before that company had its first $25,000 of revenue. We raised a large tranche of debt before the company saw its first $100 million of revenue. This might be regarded as preposterous, but it's the way the market works today.

This fundamentally new model for innovation radically lessens control by incumbents. The combination of the equity markets and the private markets means that incumbent businesses can no longer control the direction or pace of development in an industry.

At Warburg Pincus, we focus on maintaining complete discretion over blind pools of capital to secure high returns. Think of us and other venture capitalists as thousands of heat-seeking missiles, tracking down inefficiencies and opportunities.

The historical legacy of the monolithic telecommunications firms, coupled with deregulation and technological progress, provide us amply with both

Telecom industry

The most obvious and widely discussed effect of recent technological and organizational changes in the telecom industry has been a redefinition of what constitutes service. Service used to be dial tone, which became a commodity, just as access, transport and bandwidth have become commodities. "Value-added service" became a staple of marketing jargon, although it was ill-defined.

Today the telecommunications market is increasingly focused on service and applications. The rise in e-business emphasizes the value that service has added to the telecom industry worldwide.

A second effect of recent changes has been in organizational and business models. The new model seeks

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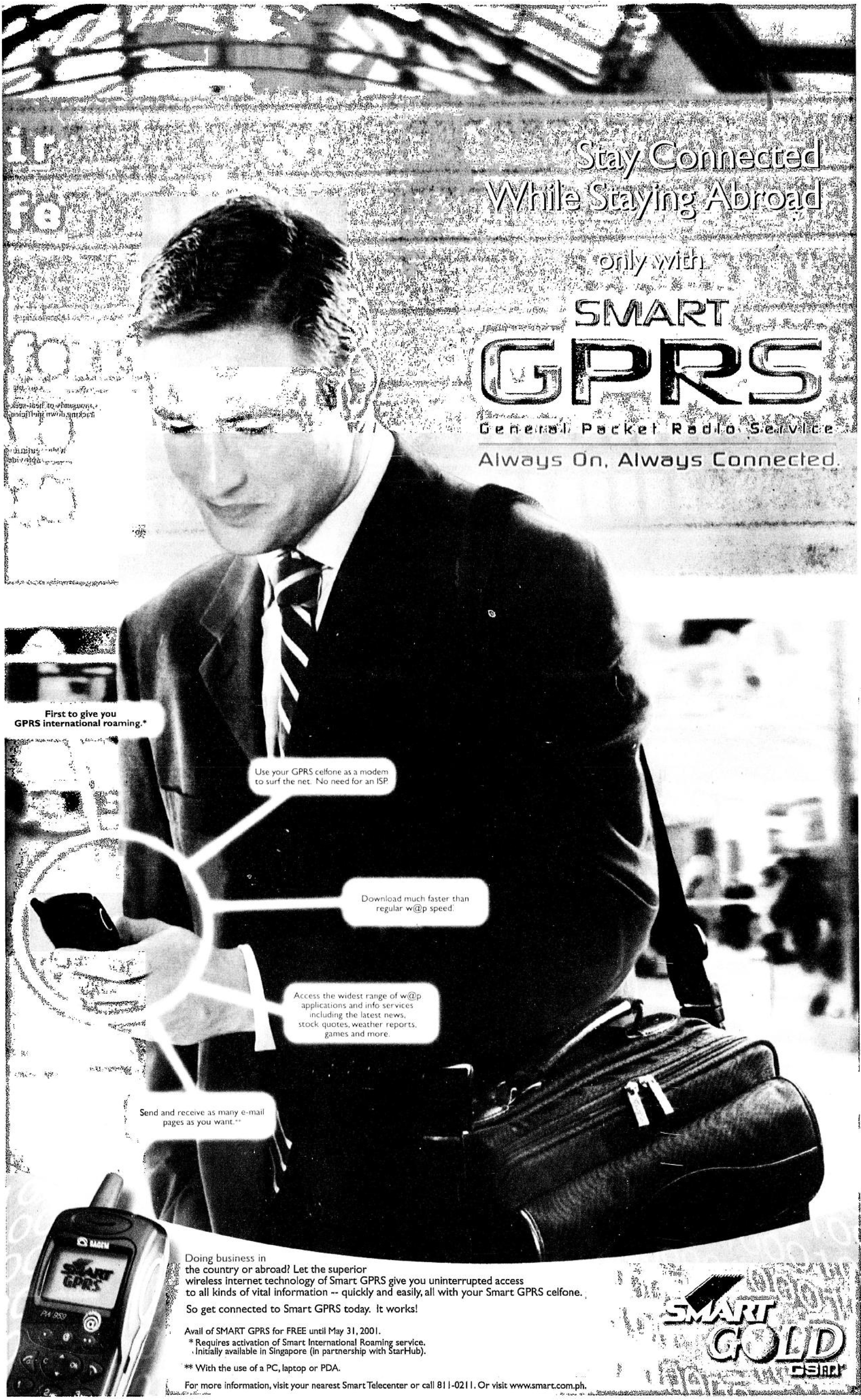
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Tony Abarquez, vice president for personal financial services at HSBC, advises those who are on the lookout for the best home loan package, to start with basic questions.

"How much can I borrow? How much interest do I have to pay? How long can I amortize the loan? These are the common questions borrowers ask, with special emphasis on interest rates as the most important factor for savings.

Abarquez explains that for a first-time borrower or even for those who are looking to refinance their existing home loans, pricing remains a key consideration. For HSBC, it offers interest rates as low as 12.5 percent fixed for three months—considered one of the lowest in the market.

Abarquez emphasizes, however, that other factors can generate savings for the borrower. Factors such as repayment tenor and lump sum payments, actually allow borrowers to own their home quicker and at a lesser cost.

"What if I pay every two weeks instead of every month? What happens if I use my year-end bonus to make an extra payment? Can I reborrow the portion of the loan already paid for another purpose?

These are not-so-common questions borrowers fail to ask, because they are uncommon options to most home loan packages.

"HSBC realizes that there is no one home loan package that will cater to all. And that a flexible home loan package that considers the customer's personal financial requirements and situation is what people may be looking for," Abarquez says.

HSBC recently introduced the Home Loan Simulator to take customers through the common and the "what-if" questions so that they are able to choose the best option for their home loan needs.

The simulator presents a series of questions, ranging from those that determine the level of borrowing and the capacity for repayment.

"Owning a home is every family's dream. Many proceed with caution because borrowing for a home is such a big decision. HSBC's Home Loan Simulator helps customers arrive at an informed decision," Abarquez says.

WWF
CORPORATE PARTNER

INQUIRER forges partnership with World Wildlife Fund Philippines. Signing the Memorandum of Agreement are (from left) INQUIRER's corporate relations manager Celine Madamba, INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, WWF president Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan and WWF chair Jaime Zobel de Ayala.

Fund managers find something in common with film characters

LONDON—You might think sci-fi film characters such as the Terminator and investment management firms have little in common—but think again.

Terminator, a gun-toting robot played by Arnold Schwarzenegger, learned human behavior from a computer program called a neural net, which is an artificial intelligence tool.

Now some investment managers are using the same technology to learn how to predict the behavior of financial markets—although skeptics say that any profit earned using artificial intelligence are a fluke.

Standard Life, the investment house which manages more than $115 billion of assets on behalf of its clients, is feeding financial and economic data into a neural network with the aim of coming up with a system that will produce higher profits.

"The neural network is designed to forecast a given market such as bonds, equities and commodities," said Dave Jubb, Standard Life's investment strategy director.

Standard Life has yet to use the technology but Jubb said first impressions from tests had been good.

Neural networks are modeled on the brain's learning and decision-making process. The human brain consists of nerve cells called neurons which give us the ability to process information and apply knowledge from past experiences to new problems.

Neural networks attempt to mimic this learning process within specialized software. A neural network is fed historical data from which it learns patterns and relationships.

The network can then make predictions by applying what it has learned to the future. In stock price forecasting, the data could be a company's share price history along with details of its profitability and wider economic indicators.

Markets are not efficient

The rise of high-powered computers and availability of minute-by-minute market data account partly for the technology's wider use. But progress in the understanding of how financial markets behave has also been a major factor.

"Financial markets are not efficient. Markets are volatile and do not move smoothly but exhibit catastrophic jumps from time to time. They behave in a chaotic fashion," Jubb told Reuters.

Indeed, volatility has been the norm rather than the exception for stock markets in recent years. The British FTSE 100 index of blue chip stocks has tumbled about 16 percent from its peak of 6,930.2 in December 1999.

According to Jubb, artificial intelligence tools are better at analyzing these market movements than traditional techniques. "Conventional quantitative methods can't model these complex relationships. Neural nets can learn non-linear relationships in the markets," he said.

A non-linear relationship exists when effect is not proportionate to cause. For example, in a non-linear system, an interest rate cut of one percent can lead to a 2 percent rise in the stock market. Under a different set of conditions the same change can lead to only a 0.5 percent rise in the market.

In linear systems the relationship is assumed to be fixed.

An example of this "non-linearity" occurred on March 20 when the US Federal Reserve cut interest rates by 50 basis points. Instead of the Dow Jones stock average rallying, as the linear assumption would imply, the market fell sharply.

Predictable markets?

If asset prices can be predicted using non-linear methods, this questions a central tenet of financial economics: the "efficient market hypothesis."

According to this theory financial markets reflect all price sensitive information, and movements in prices are random and cannot be predicted.

Some market observers believe, however, that asset prices do not perform a "random walk" but display "chaotic" behavior.

"Chaotic" movements appear to be random and unpredictable, but are in fact controlled by an underlying non-linear process.

"There is definitely predictability in the markets," says Norman Packard, president of the Prediction Company, which has a partnership with the investment bank UBS Warburg.

The firm, set up in 1991, employs a team of scientists and engineers who use neural networks and other forms of artificial intelligence tools to find predictability in asset prices. "We find non-linear relationships and use them to trade the markets.

The market inefficiencies we have found are of a relatively short timescale, from minutes to months," he told Reuters.

Another company applying artificial intelligence to market analysis is LBS Capital Management. "Investing is an art—we bring it closer to a science," says the money management firm, which manages $65 million of assets, on its website.

LBS says one of the advantages of artificial intelligence systems is that they can carry out analysis that is "extremely rapid, unemotional, and unaffected by personal bias."

Pitfalls

But Jane Foley, currency strategist at Barclays Capital, thinks it is the absence of the personal element that lets the technology down. "Artificial intelligence is not something that's going to take over the power of judgement," she said.

Another criticism leveled at neural nets is that they can learn relationships even in random data. "Neural nets are great for finding patterns but you don't know if those patterns are real or just spurious," said Andrew Johnson, a former quantitative analyst with Warburgs, who used a neural network to trade the markets a few years ago.

"Because there's no economic theory underpinning them, you cannot be confident what you are finding are genuine relationships. I believe it was a fluke we made money," he said.

But Norman Packard from Prediction says: "It's very unlikely the predictability we are finding is a fluke. We carry out standard statistical tests on the relationships we find."

Won't perform magic

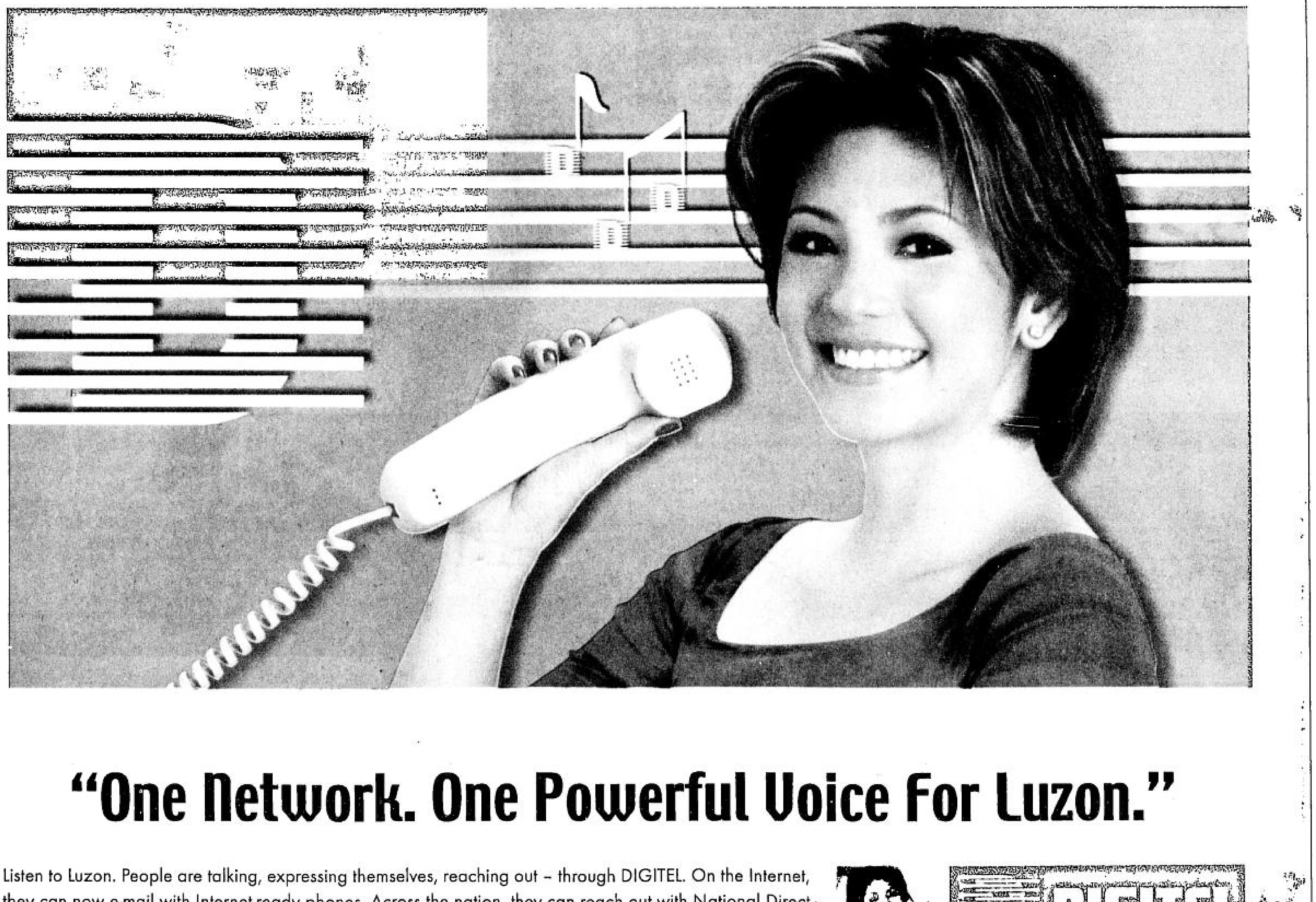
According to Jubb, profiting from using neural nets involves more than just churning mountains of data. Selecting the right variables and pre-processing of data are important.

"We are using data that we think has some predictive power, not throwing garbage at the machine and getting garbage out. The variables you choose and how you present them to the network is what matters when it comes to performance," he said.

But Jubb admits a big drawback of neural networks is the "black-box" nature of their solutions. "You cannot extract the formula that the model is using to make its forecasts," he said.

If neural nets do prove to be successful in market forecasting, David Smith, economist at Williams de Broe, thinks any gains from their use may be short-lived.

"In the early days you can make quite good profits with these techniques because it's like having a stealth fighter when nobody else has got one. But, when your rivals start doing it, your supernormal profits get wiped out and it becomes a zero sum game," he said. *Reuters*



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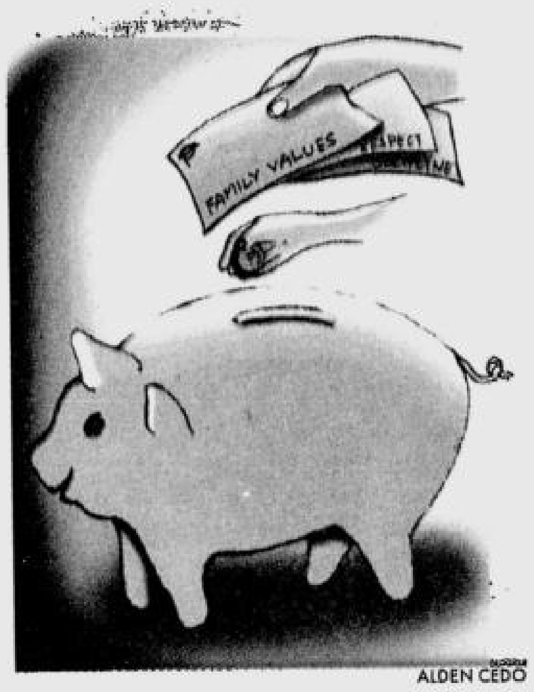
Job number one: save up on 'piggy bank' of memories



ALDEN CEDO

WE ALL KNOW the demands of our chosen careers. We work full time for a big-time corporation, struggling to make ends meet in a time of political and economic uncertainty. We work hard to build an image of ourselves that can be "bankable" and trustworthy to our clients and to the public. We operate on a mindset that the more we work, the more we advance our careers. The more we advance our careers, the better the financial rewards. The better the financial rewards, the more comfortable our young families would be.

In short, the more we work our butts off in the office, the better our children's future would be.

How many times have we been told that money isn't everything? How many times have we ignored it? We go home late at night, dead tired, and the only thing we want to hug is the pillow on our beds. You forget that weekend that your youngest son wanted you to teach him how to play ball. Now you're playing golf with your boss just to please him and earn more points for the next promotion.

We may be getting ahead in our careers and in our financial status. But what does your kid think of you as a Dad or as a Mom? Securing a future for your children doesn't only involve opening a bank account in your kids' names and stashing in millions in that every now and then. There's a larger, more "universal" bank out there, and money doesn't matter. Character does.

JOB/ C10

Ease tuition time blues with Citibank Ready Credit

EDUCATION has always been a priority in the Filipino home. A father would work overseas or take on an extra job while the mother would sell insurance or whatnot on the side—all to ensure their children can go to the best possible schools.

Yet, it is a sad reality that these days, a good education carries a high price tag—sometimes too high for most parents. For a family earning the average household income, it is hard enough to put their children through school, let alone place them in any of the best ones.

Today, tuition in private schools range from P30,000-P50,000 for elementary and secondary education. Enrollment fees for preschools are even higher. And when your child reaches college, brace yourself for the steep university fees, even in government-subsidized institutions. Add to these all the other expenses like books, school supplies, school uniforms and you'll know that education can be quite taxing to a parent's financial load. And let's not forget there are still other household expenses to pay for, like food and clothing.

Thankfully, a number of financial solutions are now available to parents when settling enrollment fees. One of these is the novel Citibank Ready Credit, a standby and revolving credit line that provides users access to reserve funds, simply by writing a Citibank check or withdrawing cash from the ATM with a Citibank Citicard.

"We at Citibank understand the situation parents face whenever its enrollment season. With Ready Credit, we are offering them financial flexibility and security. They can write a check to pay for their child's tuition, and if necessary, withdraw cash from the ATM machine to pay for school books and uniforms in the event that their cash on hand is not sufficient to cover all expenses," related Annette Tirol. vice president of Citibank.

For parents who find themselves in a quandary during enrollment time because their savings are not enough to cover the cost, or their expected source of funds has yet to flow into their account, Citibank Ready Credit will help bridge the gap. If your bonus is two months away and the enrollment date is two days from today, use Citibank Ready Credit to get your child into school.

"Ready Credit is also for other financial needs you may have—be it for personal, family or business," Tirol pointed out.

Applying for a Citbank Ready Credit is a breeze with no need for any collateral, deposit or guarantor. Just fill up an application form and submit with your most recent income tax return.

Tirol explained that Ready Credit works on the basis of revolving credit. "This simply means that every time you issue a check

EASE/ C9

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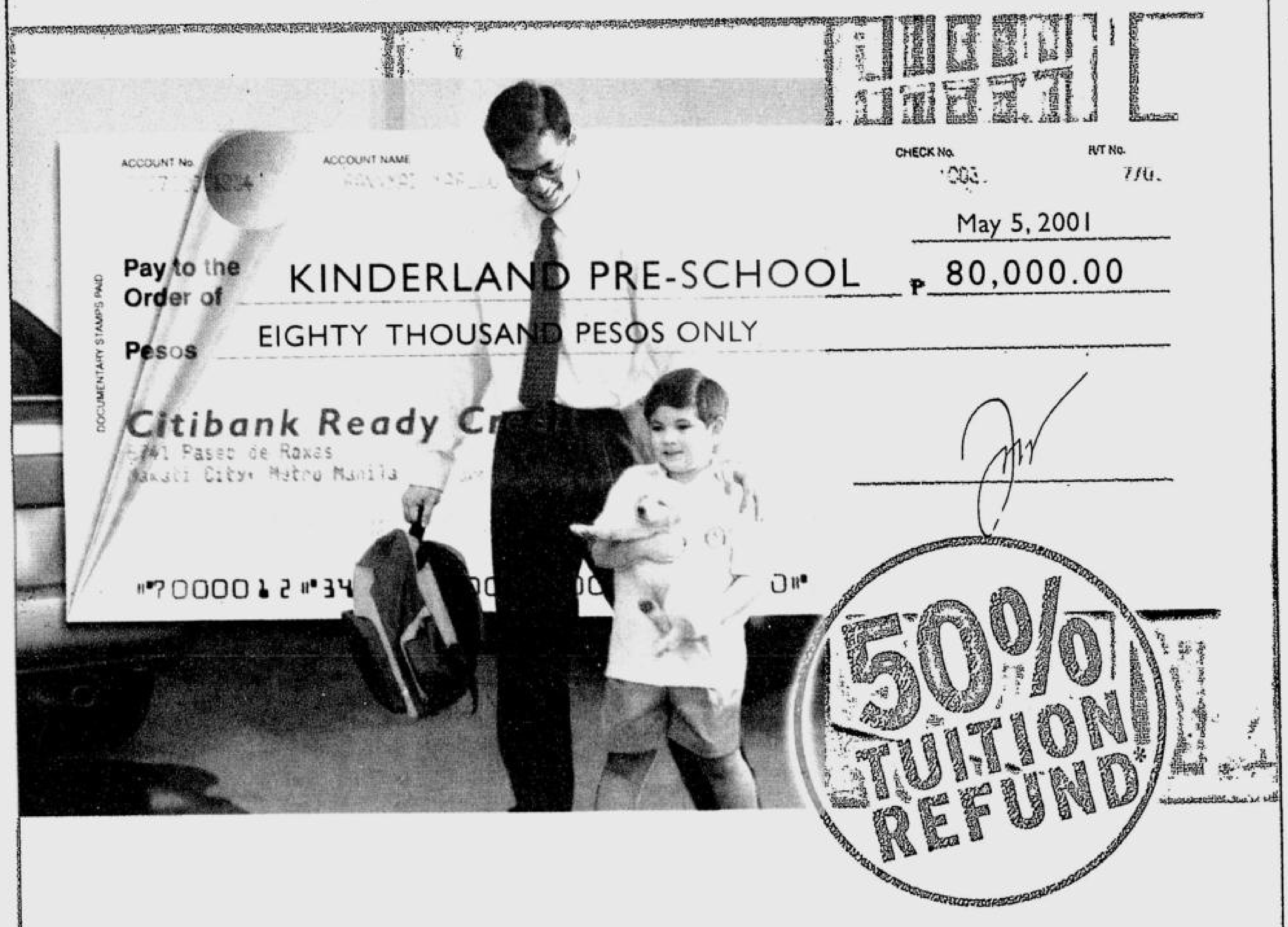

Ready Credit is Ready Cash.

Take a break from the ever-increasing cost of living. You can win up to 50% refund* on tuition fees. Simply apply for a Ready Credit today and use Ready Credit to pay for your child's enrollment.

1st prize 50% Refund on Tuition paid
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3rd prize 30% Refund on Tuition paid
4th prize 20% Refund on Tuition paid
5th prize 10% Refund on Tuition paid

You can also win up to 50% refund* on your tax and travel expenses when you use your Ready Credit for these payments.

Hurry! Apply now, use your Ready Credit and you can get a refund* of up to 50% of your tuition, tax, and travel expenses. Promo is from March 16 to June 30, 2001 only.

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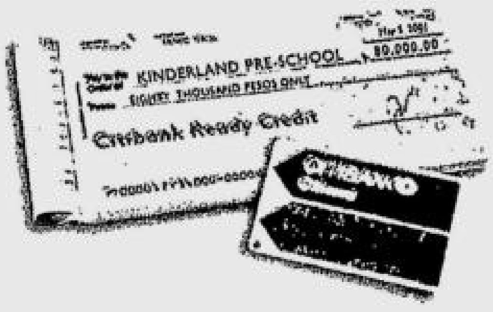
*See leaflets for details.



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Make saving fun for kids

THE VALUE of saving is often overlooked by a lot of people, until it's too late when the bills come in or emergencies arise. Many young urban professionals are guilty of this. Once they start earning their own money, yuppies usually start spending their salaries to their hearts' desire.

Nowadays, people find it more difficult to save not only because the prices of basic commodities have gone up, but also because a lot of "luxury" items have become cheaper with the surge of free enterprise. More brands in the market, which translate to better and lower prices, make it easy to spend money on unnecessary purchases here and there. The usual result is to lose track of one's spending and end up not having anything extra to deposit in the bank.

For kids, saving may be too deep a concept. They key to ensuring that kids grow up conscious of the value of saving is early training. If children know how to save early in their lives, chances are they won't have much trouble managing their finances when they grow up and start earning their own income.

So, how do you teach children to save?

When it comes to children, the key word is "fun". Even in school, teachers are developing more fun ways of teaching academic subjects to students.

So, make saving money fun for your child to keep him interested in this good habit.

Here are some suggestions how.

- **Encourage and make it possible for your child to save.** Since your child's savings will come from his lunch money, make sure his daily allowance is a little more than enough for his needs.
- **Expose your child to better alternatives.** With products you and your household consume everyday, try out different brands. This will allow you to expose your child to product brands that taste, feel, or function as well as, if not better than, costlier brands but for a cheaper price. Once your child knows his better alternatives, he will know what to look for when he is out of the house and on his own. Not only will your child learn how to budget his *baon*, but will also have extra money which can go to his savings.

> For kids, saving may be too deep a concept. The key to ensuring that kids grow up conscious of the value of saving is early training

- **Bank on trusted "piggy."** Piggy banks may be a thing of the past, but they can still help instill the habit of saving in children. It may be easier for your child to understand saving when he sees where his money is kept. Let your child choose the kind of money bank he wants to use. This way, he feels more involved in the undertaking. Make your child put in the money bank what is left of his lunch money immediately after he or she comes home from school. A specific time of the day set for this chore will make it a habit.
- **The "reward" system.** The concept of rewards is very similar to "conditioning." First, set specific targets like filling a small piggy bank—and offer a reward when the child achieves this. The rewards can be small things, depending on your child's interests, like a new comic book, a new toy, or extra TV/video game time. The reward becomes an incentive for your child to keep filling up his piggy bank.
- **Make saving a "fund-raising" project.** If your child has been asking you for a specific toy or pair of rubber shoes, make him earn the money (or part of it) to pay that item he wants to have badly. Schedule a day for a trip to the mall and let your kid identify the item of his choice. Take note of the tag price, then set your child's saving target amount. The amount should be something your child is willing to shoulder, otherwise the exercise will become a "burden" to him.
- **Open a savings account.** Opening and maintaining a bank account will give you and your child an activity that not only makes your bond stronger but will also make saving an important endeavor for your child. Set a date for each month when you and your child will go to the bank. This way, you also teach your child some sense of responsibility.

For your child's savings account, choose a bank that has a special savings account package for kids. The perks and other privileges will make saving even more fun for the young depositor.

One such account is the Metrobank Fun Savers Club account, which offers premium gift items, a free ACA video gold membership package worth over P1,000, free educational trust fund worth P50,000, and free personal accident insurance (for accounts with an average daily balance of P4,000 or more). Aside form these benefits, members of the Club will receive a welcome kit containing colorful stationery items of Savee, the Club mascot; a directory of establishments where other surprises await the member; a birthday card; the Fun Savers Club newsletter; and invitations to exclusive club activities and enjoy collecting the Club's giveaway items. (For inquiries, call your Metrobank depository branch or call 898-8701 to 02.)

Every child should learn the value of saving as early as possible. This way, he can bring the good habit with him as he grows up. The sooner your child learns to save, the better prepared he is to face his future.

JUST WHAT, EXACTLY, IS A 'PIGGY BANK?'

WHY are piggy banks pigs, in the first place. Why not a "doggy", a "mousy", or even a "whaley" bank? Surfing the Net on such a relevant question, we stumbled on an earth-shattering finding in www.about.com. Interested? Read on.

"No one invented the piggy bank. The piggy bank's origin owes more to the history of language, than to an individual inventor. In old English (around the 15th century) there was a word "pygg" which referred to a type of orange clay. People made all kinds of useful objects out of clay, including dishes and jars to hold spare change. Around the 18th century, the word "pygg" now sounded the same as the word for the animal "pig". An unknown person(s) thought to shape a "pygg" jar to look just like a real "pig". Perhaps an order came in for a "pygg" jar and the potter misunderstood."

In any case, we'll "droink" to that.

Ease tuition time . . .

(From page C8)

or withdraw from the ATM, you tap into your available credit line, but as soon as you make the payments, your credit is automatically restored by the corresponding amount."

And unlike other loan systems, Citibank Ready Credit will not bury you in debt with affordable interest rates. Pay as little as P10.83/day for every P10,000 borrowed.

Another revolutionary feature of Ready Credit is that you are only charged interest for the amount you use. "When you loan an amount from a bank, you normally pay interest on the full amount, regardless of whether you made full use of it. But with Ready Credit, you only pay interest on the borrowed amount," Tirol said.

What's more, with Ready Credit, clients have the flexibility to determine payment terms. You can pay the full amount as soon as you have the cash, or pay in installments.

For all the convenience that Citibank Ready Credit offers, what makes this product truly remarkable is how it gives parents the opportunity to give their children the one gift that matters—a good education.

For details on how to avail of Citibank Ready Credit, call the 24-hour Citiphone at 995-9999 or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

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DIGITELONE-SYKES PARTNERSHIP

DigitelOne partners with American-based IT services firm Sykes Enterprises, Inc. in enabling IT subscribers to be more competitive. During the contract signing held at the board room of the PCI Tower at the Ortigas Center recently, it was agreed that DigitelOne shall provide private leased line with Internet access at a 512kbps capacity to Sykes Enterprises to further service its ever expanding subscriber list. Shown above is (from left) Patrick Palacios, DigitelOne vice president; Lance Y. Gokongwei, DigitelOne president and CEO; Brian M. Go, DigitelOne managing director; Fredirick King, Sykes Enterprises information technology and services manager, and Vickie Lim, Sykes Enterprises general manager.

Win refunds with Citibank Ready Credit

HAVING a hard time paying your income taxes? Postponing the family vacation to next year because of lack of cash? Dreading the enrollment season, what with the expected increase in tuition?

If you find yourself in any of these situations, then now is the time for you to get a Citibank Ready Credit. A standby and revolving credit line easily accessed by writing a check or withdrawing cash from an ATM machine, Citibank Ready Credit gives you access to reserve funds.

With Citibank Ready Credit, you can immediately respond to any personal, family or business need. Settle your income tax, treat your family to a vacation and pay tuition – all with Citibank Ready Credit. And from March 16 to June 30, you have the best reason to apply for one, or if you're an existing account holder, to use Ready Credit for your financial needs.

During the promotion period, all approved applications for Ready Credit automatically quality for the "Tax Refund promotion." Each new account will be electronically assigned one raffle entry and will have the chance to win a 10- to 50-percent refund on his or her paid income taxes.

Plus, all new applications approved within the promotion period will receive a P750 refund, to be credited to their account.

Existing Ready Credit account holders can join the "Ready Refund Raffle Promotion." Use your Ready Credit check to pay for your income taxes, school tuition and enrollment fees and travel tickets and accommodation expenses for the next three months, and get the chance to win refunds of 10 to 50 percent.

It's so easy. On the back of your official receipt, write your name, address, signature, plus your Ready Credit account number and check number. Then place your official receipt in an envelope and submit to any Citibank branch or drop in drop boxes. Entries can also be mailed to "Citibank Ready Credit – Ready Refund Raffle Promotion" care of Bank Marketing PO Box 3206 Quezon City Central Post Office 1100, Quezon City, Philippines.

Deadline for drop box entries is on June 30, while mailed entries must be postmarked no later than June 15. For more information, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

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ISO 9002 CERTIFICATION FOR RMII

Rogeo Metalfab Industries, Inc. (RMII), a steel product manufacturer, fabricator and contractor, was recently awarded an ISO 9002 Certification by the TUV Product Service. Engineer Joel T. Co, president of RMII, is shown receiving the certification from Rommel N. Oliveros, marketing manager of TUV. With them are (from right) Alan M. Tolentino, consultant of Rosehall Management; engineer Jose G. Bendiola, Jr., plant manager, RMII; engineer Edna S. Fueconcillo, administrative and personnel manager, RMII; Girlie L. Payawal, administrative officer, RMII; and Arnel L. Bajal, plant supervisor, RMII.

Benepisyong Medicare para sa lahat na!
SALI NA! 637-9999

PHILHEALTH ON THE 'WALK'

Employees of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) hold the banner carrying the battle cry of PhilHealth's Individually Paying Program: "Benepisyong Medicare Para sa Lahat Na!" as they join Lakad Laban sa Kanser, the activity that kicked off the celebration of the National Cancer Consciousness Week. The "walk," which was jointly organized by the Department of Health and the Philippine Cancer Society, aimed to awaken the public's interest and support for the fight against cancer.

NESTLE CONFERENCE

The Purchasing Department of Nestlé Philippines, Inc. (NPI) recently held its annual review and planning conference with factory logistic heads and planners. The conference discussed the company's performance, cost savings' initiatives, and the challenges and initiatives of the year. The overall performance of major suppliers was likewise discussed. In photo are conference participants brainstorming.

Building your child's savings habits

REMEMBER that TV commercial on a nutritional drink where kids were tested if they would be tempted to eat a marshmallow in front of them, even if they were promised two marshmallows later if they didn't eat that single one? Well, saving up on finances works the same way. One could easily replace that marshmallow with a peso coin, and ask the kid to not spend it now for two pesos later.

As soon as your child learns how to count, it's time to teach him or her how to save. Here are some easy steps to build good savings habits. The process is fairly easy. It takes just about 10 minutes a week, and there's no need to hurry, unless you want your kid to have his first million at the age of five.

1. Teach your child to count coins.

2. Buy or make a piggy bank.

3. Give your child a small allowance, as little as P50 a week or month, depending on age and your budget.

4. On the child's "pay day", encourage him or her to save 10 percent of their allowance, teach them early to pay themselves first.

5. Check with your bank to find out how much money is needed to open a savings account in your child's name. Lots of banks have simple child savings facilities that earn competitive interests.

6. Make a chart that you can hang in your child's room that shows the savings goal to open an account and track progress toward meeting that goal.

7. On a monthly basis, open the piggy bank with your child and count the savings.

8. Post the progress toward meeting the goal of opening a savings account.

9. When you finally meet that goal, take your child to the bank and open an account with his or her savings.

Remember, you're not an army general barking orders to troops. Make saving a fun activity that the child actually looks forward to doing. Develop a major goal for how your child can use their savings. Find out what they would like and help them understand how to save for it.

Job number one: save up . . .

(From page C8)

It's what we may call the "piggy bank" of memories. For every fond memory your child has playing ball with you every Sunday, for every day your daughter remembers you teaching her how to cook her favorite dishes. that's a million credits for you in the piggy bank of memories. For every night that you came in from work and hugged your children to sleep, that's a million more credits saved.

When your children are all grown up and are building careers of their own, raising children of their own, they will go back to that bank account of fond memories you may or may not have saved on. When they see it's empty, they in turn won't have anything to save for their children. But when they see it's full, they will, gladly, pass the entire wealth on to their children.

As your children plunk in coins in their piggy banks, devote a few hours with them and be true parents. Set examples, define rules of the house, and enforce discipline. It is difficult, doubly so when both parents are working full time.

No one said raising a family would be easy. As much as possible, center your lives on the following concepts so both of you would not lose focus:

- Prioritize your relationship with your immediate family. That means, the nucleus of your family—spouse, kids, and parents—should be considered first in all aspects of decision-making.
- Don't take your marriage for granted. Stereotyping chores in the house enforces biases in your children. Listen to each other's work concerns. Let the kids in on the housekeeping chores.
- Brainstorm solutions, not nitpick on each other's faults in front of the children. Working on the problem, not on the person, enforces objectivity and resourcefulness.
- Be flexible. Parents who develop the skill to juggle time schedules and activities ultimately pass this trait to their children by example.
- Believe in yourselves and in your marriage. A high family self-esteem builds confident children.
- Learn how to be tolerant, patient and compassionate. This may be the most important trait you can pass to your children. A "global" community in the near future will call for such character.

Though we are aware that things won't go our way sometimes—that we won't have anything to deposit to the piggy bank of memories at one time or another—we must make it a point to make up for lost time next time.

Happy Savers Club

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Banco Filipino's Happy Savers Club

WHILE most banks offer similar products, Banco Filipino has pioneered in the promotion of savings programs for kids. Banco Filipino's Happy Savers Club, a savings program especially designed for kids 18 years old and below, was introduced in the 80s. It was a deposit campaign aimed to inculcate savings consciousness in the youth and to encourage members to save more by giving incentives as their deposit balances increase.

The Happy Savers Club has nonetheless gone a step further. It advocates that the youth should not only imbibe the value of thrift but also uphold Filipino values and tradition and increase awareness of its responsibility to the environment, thus developing these values among its members.

It is in this context that the "Create the Happy Savers Club Mascots Contest" was envisioned where talented HSC members can concretize Environmental Responsibility and Thrift through the medium of art.

The response was overwhelming, with more than 400 HSC members submitting their entries. Among the 76 entries who made it to the finals, two entries emerged as first prize winners. The 11-year-old M. Dela Fuente Branch HSC member Bernadette Mary Q. Umali won in the category for Environmental Responsibility while Michael O. Villadolid, another HSC member of M. Dela Fuente Branch, bagged the first prize for the Thrift category. Both winners won P100,000 each, a trophy and a certificate of recognition. A total of P150,000 consolation prize were given to the 15 runners-up of each category, plus a certificate and plaque of recognition. Their respective schools were also given a cash prize of P5,000 each and certificate of recognition.

Bernadette submitted an entry depicting an eagle as an endangered species. The eagle wears overalls in mixed shades of red, orange and green emphasizing the peaceful and warmth tranquility of the environment with the use of the sun's rays, green leaves, flowers and animals.

Twelve-year-old Michael, on the other hand, submitted an entry representing the hardworking and thrifty ant. It was drawn using pastel colors, making it even more appealing and attractive.

The Happy Savers Club mascots "Big Eagle" and "Ann Tipid" were unveiled to enthusiastic Happy Savers Club members.

Happy Savers Club members are also treated to a party every first Saturday of the month in all Banco Filipino branches. HSC birthday celebrants of the month are honored during the event. Other activities include singing, drawing and dancing contests, a series of games, raffles plus a fete of party goodies. The branches are also opened to service transactions not only for the Happy Savers Club members but also for regular depositors.

HSC members are also given the chance to show off their talents in several club-sponsored socio-civic activities as well as in special events of the bank. Club membership was also boosted by the tieup with the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. The Happy Savers Club's vision in preserving the environment as well as inculcating thrift among its members goes hand in hand with the Boy Scouts 9th point Scout Law which is, "a Boy Scout is thrifty" and its ongoing environmental programs.

For an initial deposit of P500, a Happy Savers Club passbook, an ID or ATM card are given to the HSC member. HSC members are also automatically insured up to P14,000.

The Happy Savers Club now boasts of more than 74,000 members nationwide.

BANCO FILIPINO Happy Savers Club mascots Ann Tipid and Big Eagle strike a pose for the HSC members.

HSC mascots Big Eagle and Ann Tipid are eagerly hugged by the Happy Savers Club members.

MODEL/actress Angel Aquino (second from right) hosted the event of the Happy Savers Club while the HSC mascots Ann Tipid and Big Eagle mingle with the kids. Also shown are co-hosts customer relations models Janet Canatoy and Alfred de Lima.

SWINGING to a lively dance number are the Happy Savers Club mascots Ann Tipid and Big Eagle.

HAPPY Savers Club members flock around Big Eagle and Ann Tipid, who were big hits during one of the special events.

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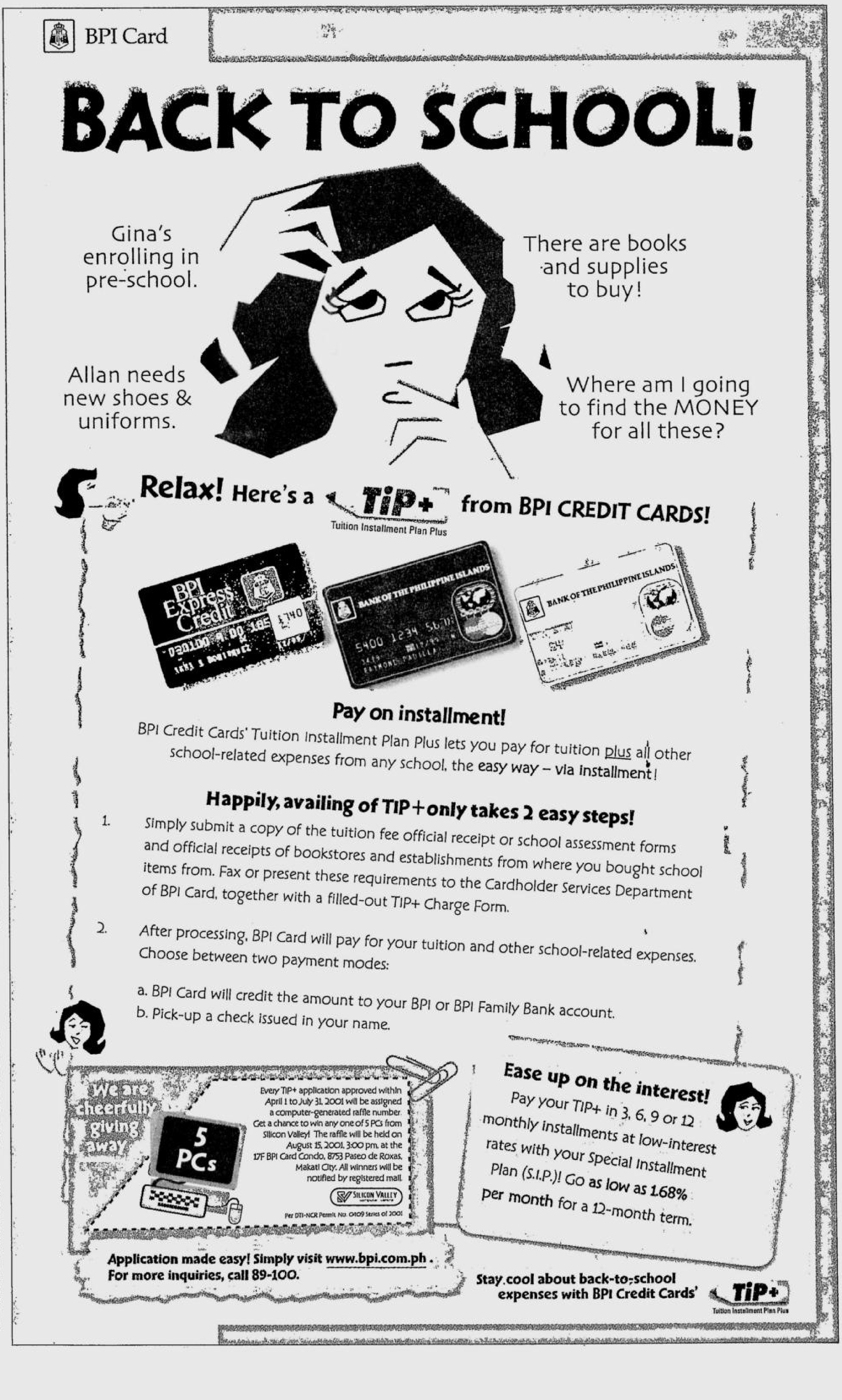

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Silicon Valley

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0109 Series of 2001

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BUSINESS*Monday*

Racism bad for Chinese-American entrepreneurs

WASHINGTON—There is no room for racism at the top.

This is the message that some of America's most successful entrepreneurs—who also happen to be Chinese-American—delivered at a recent panel discussion in Washington labeled "Insights from the Top of the Private Sector."

"In the business I'm in, you get measured by how successful you are and how profitable you are and how fast you grow," said Jerry Yang, cofounder of Internet media giant Yahoo! Inc.

"You have no choice but to have a complete meritocracy and have the competition of the best ideas, best talents and the best people regardless of their backgrounds," Yang said.

"What we've noticed in actually encouraging the kind of diversity that exists in Silicon Valley and the United States (is that you end up having) a better company because you take the best of all backgrounds . . . working closely together as a team. You end up creating something where you can continually mine and strive for what's best in each culture."

Some on the panel also wanted to emphasize that their Chinese backgrounds and "traditional values" of discipline, respect for authority and hard work contributed to the mix.

"I think we're in the best of both worlds with a Chinese background and American environment," said Andrew Cherng, who built a network of nearly 400 Panda Express Chinese restaurants nationwide. "I think it makes things work."

Upbeat, optimistic about the future

The panel, brought together by the Committee of 100, a group of influential Chinese-Americans, could not have had a more somber subject in examining bias in the US business world and the role their Chinese heritage has played in their successes, especially after a survey commissioned by the committee showed that fully 25 percent of Americans have generally negative attitudes toward Chinese-Americans.

Nearly half of those surveyed were worried that Americans of Chinese descent might pass secrets to China's government.

Yet the participants were upbeat and optimistic, frequently eliciting roars of laughter from an appreciative audience of several hundred Asian-Americans from all walks of life at the committee's annual conference last weekend.

Tongue-in-cheek, Pehong Chen, chief executive of software maker BroadVision Inc., alluded to unhappy shareholders during the ongoing downturn in the technology sector.

"The thing that's driving me most right now is making sure that we can get the stock price to a level where I won't be bothered anymore at my favorite restaurant," he said when asked about his motivations. "All the waiters are shareholders!"

But he added on a serious note: "The silver lining to the Internet meltdown is in B2B, Back to Basics." Asked about role models, he said Chinese-Americans must make more inroads in the mainstream corporate world even if many entrepreneurs were doing well.

David Chu, founder/president of clothing manufacturer Nautica Enterprises Inc., said today's "entrepreneurs" could be tomorrow's corporate leaders. "If you think about it, American industry was built by immigrants, built by start-ups (that) started out small and eventually became an institution."

Chinese-Americans too influential: survey

The Committee of 100 was formed in 1989 by prominent Chinese-Americans such as architect I.M. Pei and current committee president Henry Tang to help those of Chinese descent and promote better US-China relations.

Its survey, conducted by Yankelovich Partners in the first two weeks of March, showed that 34 percent of those polled thought it was probably true Chinese-Americans had too much influence in high technology.

At the same time, as many as 91 percent of those polled said it was probably true that Chinese-Americans had strong "family values" and 77 percent said they were as honest as other business people.

Yankelovich said the findings could be applied to Asian-Americans generally, not just Chinese, because those surveyed tended not to be able to tell the difference. *Reuters*

Venture . . .

(From page C4)

to increase the density and reduce the cost of communications interaction.

This requires deep understanding of the business at hand and the market to be served, one of the fundamental criteria that we use to evaluate a new venture. When we look at funding a new telecommunications venture to serve a specific market, we have to know whether the people involved truly understand that market at a gut level.

The new model requires a depth of this domain knowledge that few companies can demonstrate, as well as a very different capital structure. These requirements pose fundamental problems for integrated companies, which were created as aggregations and which depend on cross-subsidization.

They have little experience with external interactions or partnerships. Their domain knowledge may be limited, and their capital structures do not foster innovation.

The old model will be with us for some time to come. In fact, over the next few years a number of factors may conspire to make it appear that the old model of aggregation is going strong.

With the retreat of government from business interests in many countries, incumbents looking to expand may fill many niches. And in light of the burgeoning demand for bandwidth, consolidation may initially meet these needs.

Two models for the future

But the trends against aggregation in the longer-term future are strong. Telecom companies cannot stay where they are. Two theoretical models provide a glimpse of the industry's future.

The first model is that of the enabling provider: the low-cost network provider with a focus on intense and constant innovation. Such a provider will offer value-added services, such as security and Web hosting, rigorously reducing costs and making innovative use of the lowered cost of interaction. This is a plausible model, usable by many companies. Maintaining such a model, however, may be difficult. The constant challenge will be to stay ahead and to innovate more rapidly than the market as a whole is doing.

The second model could be called the new value-adder: the provider of a suite of tightly organized and focused services. Examples might be exchanges, payment mechanisms, and application service providers (ASPs).

Such a company will be broken up and will require an intense relationship focus and deep domain knowledge. These attributes will drive the company into the epicenter of competition. This is precisely the direction in which venture capital investment wants to go.

The two models have some aspects in common. Both require a focus on interactivity that most incumbents lack. More important, the new models require entirely new capital structures. One of the strongest barriers to innovation in large incumbent companies is a holistic capital structure.

As companies disaggregate, the new separate entities develop separate financial structures, with access to new markets and different securities. Within the telecom industry, incumbents will have to consider carefully whether to continue to own a majority of these newly disaggregated entities.

If a firm like Warburg Pincus can run satisfactorily by owning roughly 40 to 45 percent in its investment ventures, there's no reason other companies can't. If you want to create capital value out of these new models, you're going to have to find a way. It's more than culture. It's money.

Cultural distance is necessary between an innovation and the core culture of an incumbent telecom company—this is fairly accepted wisdom. A money distance is necessary, too. Markets simply do not believe that innovations are nurtured within an integrated incumbent company. The challenge is to find a way to achieve that financial separation.

Conclusion

This environment has no natural laws or absolutes. There is no reason at all why any incumbent integrated carrier cannot develop innovative services in the future. Management skills are not the issue.

The chief executive officers of the three principal xDSL companies in the United States all came from integrated carriers. If these people were effective now, they were effective then. Any set of skills can be mastered, and any partner can be acquired.

What integrated telecom companies cannot do today is control time and pace. The thousand heat-seeking missiles control these now, and we are funding highly focused challengers who tend to have similar characteristics, including new and quite specific business models.

We are concerned with finding out how these models will make money in a way that is better or different from other models. Deep domain knowledge is often the difference between success and failure.

Finally, we look for highly focused and incentive-driven management, the hallmark of nimble organizations with competitive intensity.

W. Bowman Cutter is a managing director of Warburg Pincus. His article appeared in Vol. 6, No. 2 of Infocomm Review published by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

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The colors of Fall

PILAR Fall in her San Clemente loft

Story on page D6

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1. All BPI/BPI Family Bank Express Teller and BPI Direct ATM cardholders who use the EPS from April 30 to July 15, 2001 can join the promo.
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3. Only a maximum of five (5) raffle numbers in a day will be assigned to an accountholder who used the EPS.
4. For the weekly draw, the following shall apply:
   - Three (3) winners will win back amount of EPS purchase up to a maximum of ₱5,000 per winner (minimum ₱1,000).
   - Computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchase on a particular day are valid for that week only.
   - An accountholder can win only ONCE in each week's draw. If drawn more than once, he will get the prize with the higher value.
   - All draws will be held at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. on the following dates:

Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
April 30 to May 6	May 9
May 7 to May 13	May 16
May 14 to May 20	May 23
May 21 to May 27	May 30
May 28 to June 3	June 6
June 4 to June 10	June 13
June 11 to June 17	June 20
June 18 to June 24	June 27
June 25 to July 1	July 4
July 2 to July 8	July 11
July 9 to July 15	July 18

A DTI representative will be present at each draw.
- The amount won will be credited to the winner's account within seven (7) working days after the draw date.

5. For the Grand Draw, the following shall apply:
   - There will be three (3) grand draw winners.
   - All computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchase within the promo period are qualified for the Grand Draw.
   - The three (3) Grand Prize winners shall each be entitled to reimbursement of one-year tuition fee of one first degree family member of school age (elementary to college) up to a maximum of ₱100,000 subject to submission of proof of tuition fee payment or school assesment and birth certificate of the child.
   - Otherwise, if client does not have a first degree family member of school age, or if client cannot submit required documentation, client then wins a cash prize of ₱50,000.
   - Grand Draw will be held on July 18, 2001 at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. A DTI representative will be present to witness the draw.
   - An accountholder can only win once. Taxes on all prizes shall be shouldered by BPI.
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7. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Complete list of winners will be published in a major newspaper with national circulation at the end of the promo.
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A vote for Buding is a vote for laughter

By Cora Llamas

INVENTOR is "candidate" Doña Buding. RANDY HORMILLOSA

DON'T look now, but our worst political nightmare is just around the corner. She has twice the pomp and pomposity of Imelda, the no-holds-barred acid wit of a Miriam Santiago, and has a bank account that's probably larger than all of her opponents combined.

After a long absence of 13 years, that lovable lump of biting social commentary, Doña Buding, is back. And she's running for senator!

What's her platform? Women empowerment, among other things. What's the first thing she will do if she wins? Redecorate the hallowed but bland halls of the Senate. And her fellow senators shouldn't mind because they won't be paying for it anyway. What's the greatest thing she can offer the Filipino people? Her money. And she has tons of it.

Then again, this could be sweet justice, as the lady takes potshots at her coiffured competitors now campaigning all over the country.

"Nobody will be spared. This social butterfly has turned sociopolitical critic. Now she wants to run the country," says Nanette Inventor a.k.a Doña Buding, adding with relish, "but, Doña Buding will always be the heroine."

Her—er—concerns for the political future of the country prompted Buding to come out from her decade-long hibernation. But where before she was content with aiming her sharp verbal swords at the latest fashion, the most overhyped wedding, or the pitiful attempts of wannabes to climb up the social ladder, she has been "empowered and awakened" by Edsa II into playing a more powerful role. Why remain an observer when you can be a major player?

Fun marathon

Her platforms and political views are the main course of "Buding 4 Senator," the two-hour one-woman stand-up comedy show at the Music Museum on May 11 and 12. Director Tony Espejo promises a marathon of humor, as people recognize candidates, both their favorites and the not-so, and their own antics as voters. The manners and mores of the Filipino electorate won't be spared either.

If Buding experienced an awakening, hopefully, her audience will, too. The creative team who engineered Buding's resurrection have spent a large part of their careers educating their viewers, encouraging them to think beyond the envelope. The Gantimpala Foundation, Espejo's theater company, regularly runs four Filipino theater classics—"Kanser (Noli Me Tangere)," "El Filibusterismo," "Ibong Adarna" and "Florante at Laura"—for the student crowd, adding the modern touch to make them more relevant to GenXers. Buding's scriptwriter since the character was born in 1983, Joey Reyes, has crossed over into film directing, capturing on cinema slices of Filipino life that others wouldn't touch. Remember "Live Show?" Reyes helmed that movie.

In watching Buding, the people will "know who the real *trapo* and the *guapo* are," says Inventor, "*iyong mga may karanasan at kakayahan*," as opposed to those who have none. Of course, "the *balimbing*" candidate that permanent staple in Philippine politics, will have his just desserts. "It's our national fruit. The *balimbing* will always be there."

Which of the 36 candidates running for the senatorial offices will be the brunt of Buding's attention? Will there be more jokes for the Puwersa ng Masa than the People Power Coalition? Or will it be the other way around?

Actress and director hemmed and hawed on that one, not wanting to spoil the fun. Inventor, though, staunchly maintains, "*Wala akong kinakampihan.*" Espejo concedes that some "senatoriables" just might be spared. The choices ultimately boil down to one thing: a candidate's potential as humor fodder. "*Iyon madaling paglaruan*," Espejo points out the obvious.

Those looking for Miriam certainly won't be disappointed. "It is a given," Inventor says. Like the notorious airplane-jumping jokes? "*Ay, naku, iba-ibang eroplano ang lalabas.*"

And, yes, Buding can also dish out good reviews. Loren Legarda and Serge Osmeña—admittedly the comedienne's favorites—apparently have nothing to fear.

"Buding 4 Senator" has performed a couple of times last month. Although it runs only two more nights, the lady is here to stay. Espejo and Inventor have plans of touring her in a series of shows or even putting her on a 10-minute TV slot, ala "Penthouse Live" in the 1980s.

It seems that there's no going back. Not that the loud-mouthed Buding does all the talking. This act has space for live audience interaction. People can ask anything they want and are guaranteed to get an answer.

Like the show, don't take it at face value, though. Mimicking the words and expressions of a seething senator, Inventor laughs, "I just might lie!"

"Buding 4 Senator" will run on May 11 and 12, 9 p.m., at the Music Museum. Call Gantimpala Foundation at 897-1533 or 895-8314

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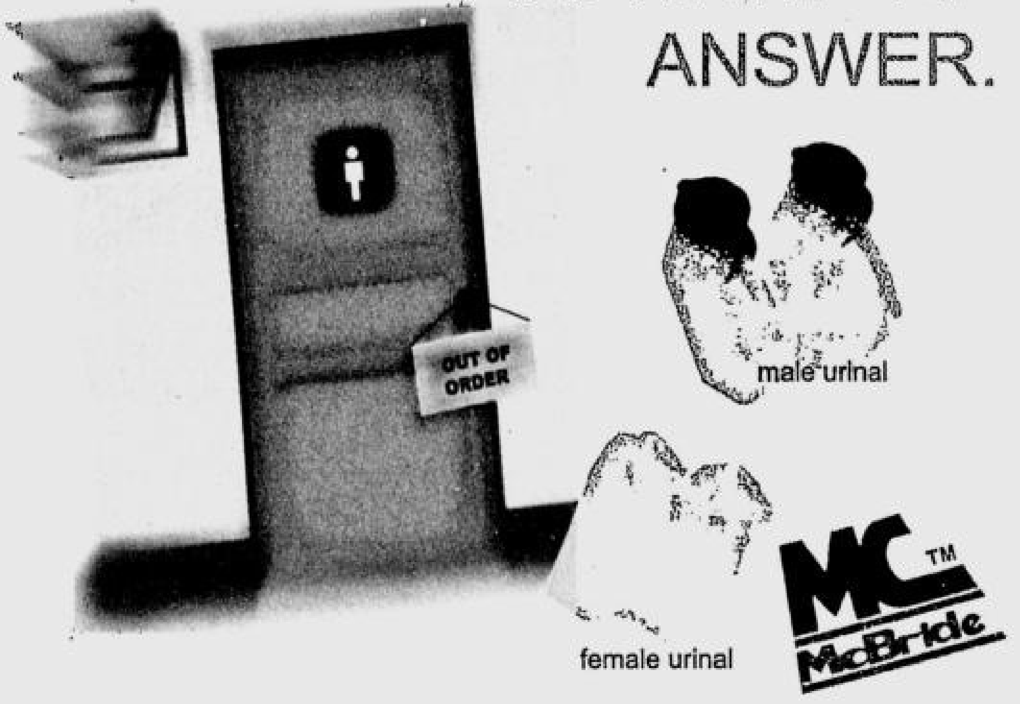

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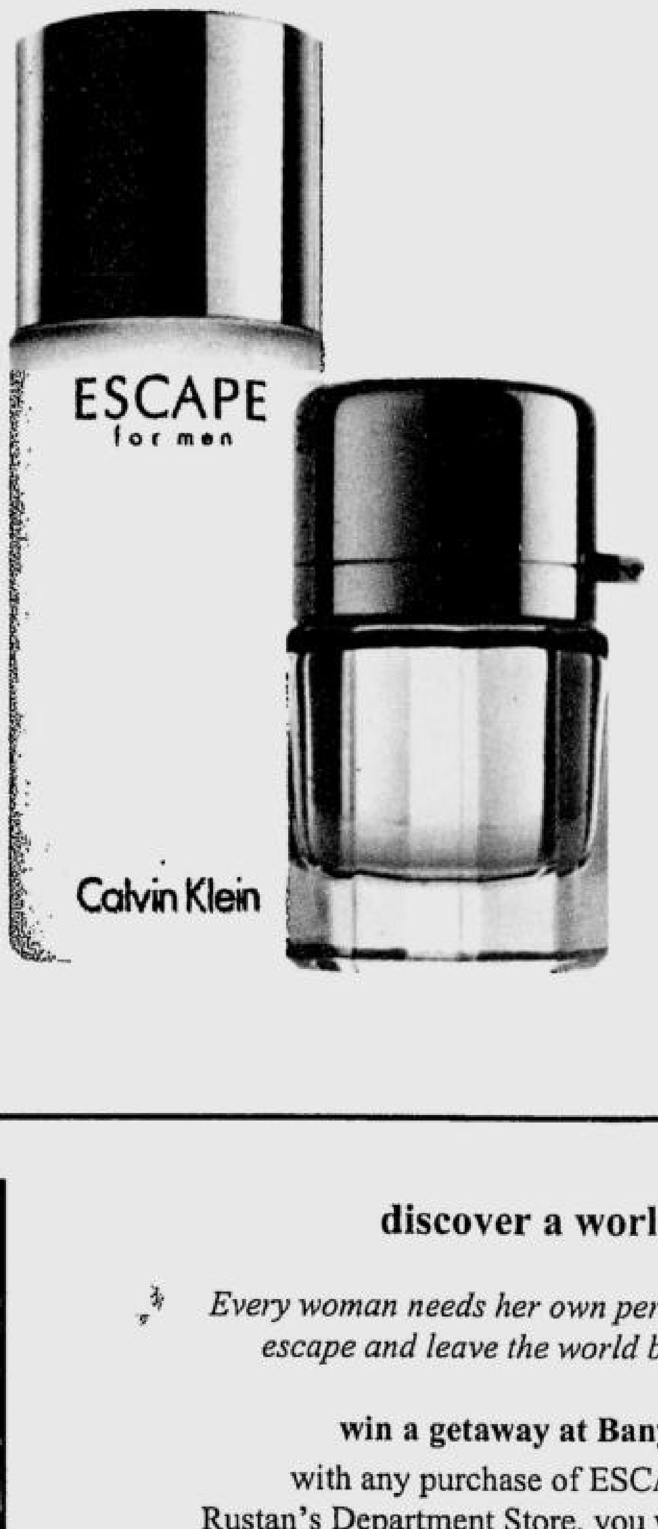

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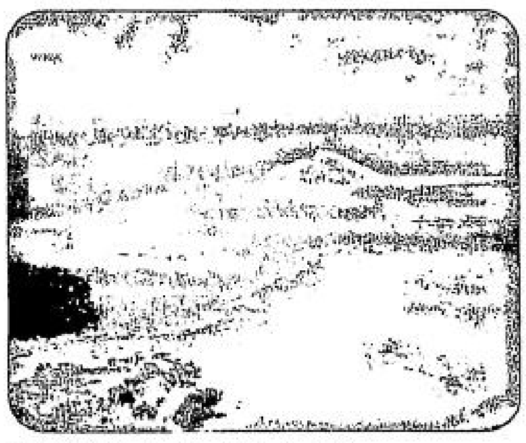


GREAT Barrier Reef (Australia)

Cultural heritage

(From page D8)

and substance, use and function, traditions and techniques, location and setting, spirit and feeling …"

Maintaining human links

Spirit and feeling—the genius loci—express human association with a heritage place. Places that continue to maintain their human links and are still used by people is living heritage, unlike the dead heritage of precious museum objects preserved under glass and kept out of the people's reach.

An old house still inhabited by the same family after generations is living heritage with a strong sense of "home." The *tongkonans* of Tana Toraja are living heritage in the true sense. They go beyond the sense of "home," being regarded as living symbols of local families who insist on maintaining their religious, cultural and environmental traditions. The *tongkonan* does not exist in isolation in the Tana Toraja landscape. The vista of Tana Toraja villages—sweeping roofs of parallel rows of *tongkonan* built at the foot of a hill where ancestors are buried and surrounded by communal rice fields—shows the long interaction of the local population and their environment. The landscape demonstrates a deep relationship with nature that has existed for generations.

Preserving the genius loci of Tana Toraja villages goes beyond protecting the unique architecture of the dwellings. It means preserving a total lifestyle while attempting to make the traditional lifestyle, severely threatened by 21st century influences, continue to be relevant. The same threats are faced by the Rice Terraces of the Cordilleras, the first "living cultural landscape" inscribed in the World Heritage List. The site could disintegrate if the traditional lifestyle is not maintained.

Genius loci have to do with the human dimension. Are our conservation concepts doing justice to the genius loci? Are we preserving the spiritual dimension of heritage places? Do our conservation and maintenance strategies take genius loci into consideration?

Going beyond differences

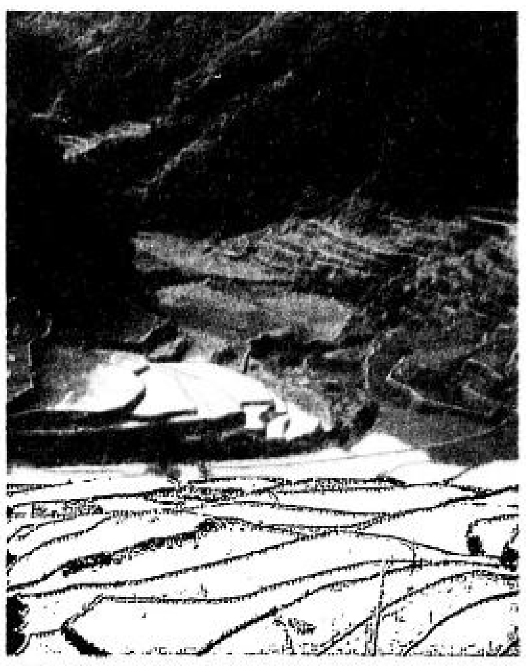
Borobodur is genius loci on a national scale. Indonesians regard Borobodur not as a Buddhist temple but as a national monument symbolizing the entire country. In the same manner, every Filipino considers the Rice Terraces as a national symbol.

Adopting a broader perspective that includes the entire Southeast Asia, is there a shared genius loci that goes beyond our individual cultures and national boundaries?

Each site nominated to the World Heritage List from the region must illustrate the uniqueness of Southeast Asia. But the cultures of Southeast Asia could also show their common origins if each nomination could illustrate that, despite our cultural diversity, there are cultural threads that we all share.

Preserving cultural heritage ensures continuity by safeguarding memory in our rapidly changing world. Maintaining the spirit of our sites, their genius loci, is the only way to achieve this. It will also establish Southeast Asian identity in a globalizing world.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph.



RICE Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras

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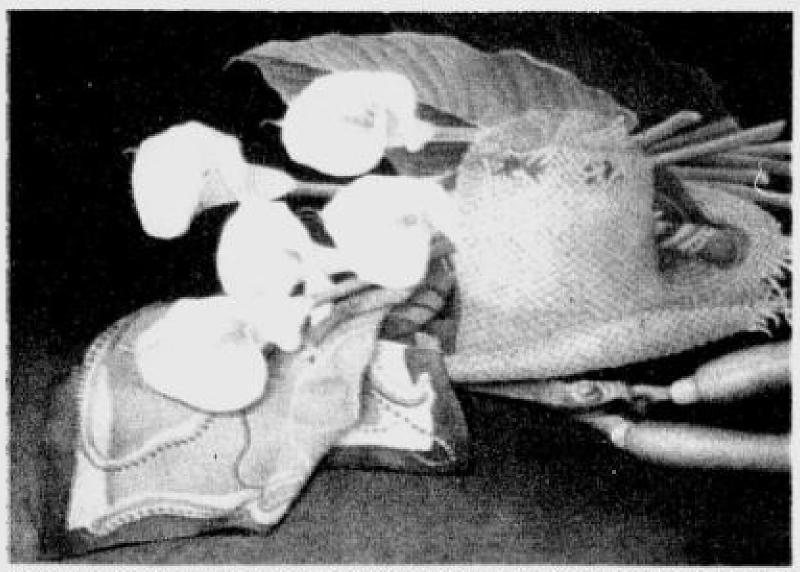
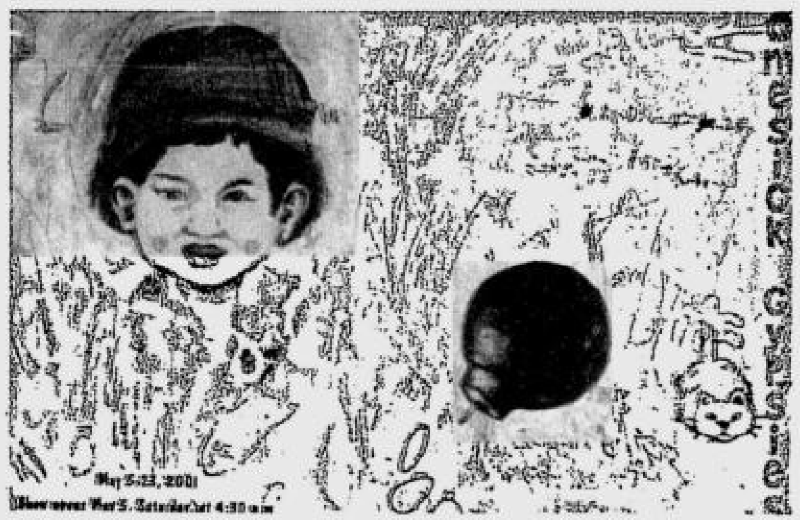

"PINITAS ni Mang Pepe" by Felipe Mayoya, on view until May 16 at the Metropolitan Art Gallery.



"HOMESICK Gypsies" by Alvin Gregorio, on view until May 23 at the Drawing Room.

THE CANVAS Society

Ventura at West Gallery; Mayoya at the Met; Piano at Ayala Museum

VISUAL ARTS

RONALD Ventura mounts his third one-man exhibit dubbed "Restored Images," at the West Gallery, 4/L SM Megamall. The exhibit recaptures the nuances of the human psyche often lost in the flux of a fast-moving world. Works in oil and mixed media will be on view from May 11-22. Call 634-1284.

MAYOYA AT THE MET. Felipe V. Mayoya, a skillful gardener-cum-painter from Baguio City, mounts his third solo watercolor exhibit dubbed "Panagbenga" at the Metropolitan Art Gallery, Artwalk, 4/L SM Megamall A. This one-man exhibit features 15 watercolor paintings showcasing Mayoya's pointillist interpretation in still life of various flowers adorned with native handicrafts from this popular City of Blooms. The exhibit runs until May 16. Call 637-8387/-8388.

PIANO AT AYALA MUSEUM. Bicolano artist Pancho Piano has consistently recorded through paintings the historical, religious and cultural events that surround his province. In his 14th solo exhibit on May 18 at the Ayala Museum, he is putting up a 20 pieces of works in acrylic and oil—the "Fiestas and Legends" of Bicol. It runs until June 4.

INGCO AT THE DRAWING ROOM. Artist Gerardo Ingco mounts his recent works on paper at The Drawing Room, 1007 Metropolitan Ave. Metrostar Building, Makati City. The exhibit features 10 abstract works on handmade paper and two large-scale pieces. Its energy and spontaneity characterize the new sets of works. The exhibit runs until May 23. Call 897-7877/6990.

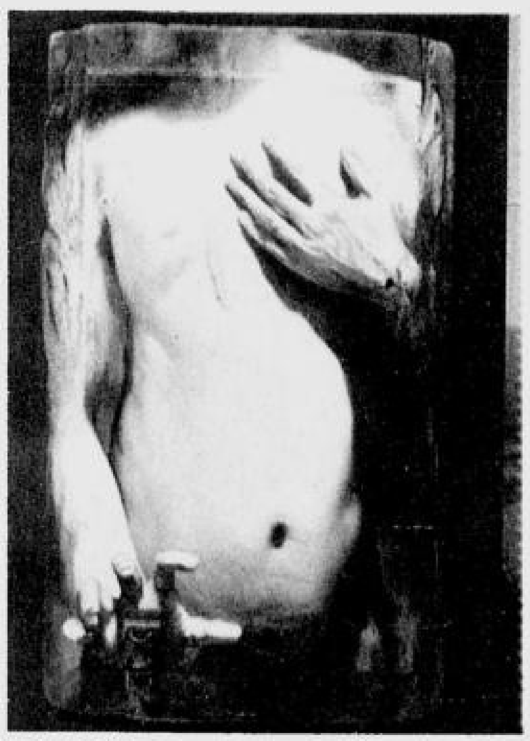
AQUILIZAN AT STARBUCKS. Alfredo Juan Aquilizan presents his latest charcoal drawings on paper at the Starbucks' mezzanine, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, until May 21.

YOUNG ARTISTS AT BOSTON GALLERY. "Bago sa Lumang Istorya," a group exhibit featuring four young artists—Jessie Dimaculangan, Dennis Gonzales, Elmer Roslin and Jerson Samson—is ongoing at the Boston Gallery until May 19. Call 722-9205.

GREGORIO AT THE DRAWING ROOM. Alvin Pagdanganan Gregorio mounts his first solo show at The Drawing Room, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City. Call 897-6990/7877.

PATRICIO AT THE LEGAZPI MUSEUM. Ernesto Patricio will present his fourth one-man show, dubbed "Balik-Tanaw," at the Legazpi City Museum on May 9. The exhibit will run until the first week of June.

SUMMER CAMP EXHIBIT. The five-day camp at Taal Lake Yacht Club—Snack 2001 (Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids)—ends its activities with an exhibit of entries to the Konica "Stop and Smell the Flowers" photo tilt, Tarsier kite drawings from Diwa's "Draw a Tarsier" competition, and ceramic paintings under the tutelage of Lanelle Abueva, on May 12-15 at Pottery Exchange, Garden Level.


"TRACE" by Ronald Ventura, on view at West Gallery.

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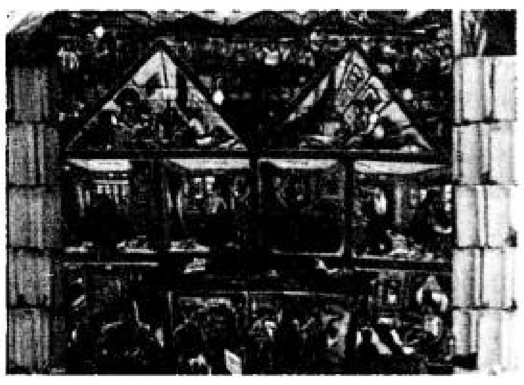
PAINTER Julius Limpe (third from left) recently held his eighth one-man show at the West Gallery. He is shown with guests and fellow artists Malang Santos, Magoo Valencia and Frankie Verano.

Bonaventure Building, Ortigas. Call 721-0801, 724-1762 or 716-7164.

ART WORKSHOP. Fred Liongoren will hold an art workshop on May 23-27 at the Care Philippines Education Center in Sitio Tanza II, Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT THE HEART CENTER. In line with the celebration of Mother's Day, 21 Canvas Society artists present their latest exhibit at The Art Gallery of the Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, QC. Most of the 68 artworks presented in the exhibit depict the universal Mother and Child theme in various moods and settings, which are as diverse as the individual styles and media of expression of the members of the group. Participating artists include Simonnette Aguirre, Mar Bongalon, Eugene Canete, Lady Cocal, Gregorio Dantes Jr., Juliet de la Torre, Charles de Nava, Raquel Faustinorio, Alona Galeria, Carolina Lee, Dr. Linda Lim-Varona, Jose Madrilejos, Alan Malunes, Josie Neffe, Jonathan Olarte, Morena Ramos, Zeus Ruiz, Bing Siochi, David Temperante, Harry Torres and Nards Zepeda. The exhibit runs until May 12.



"KAPITBAHAY" by Jerson Samson, on view until May 19 at Boston Gallery.

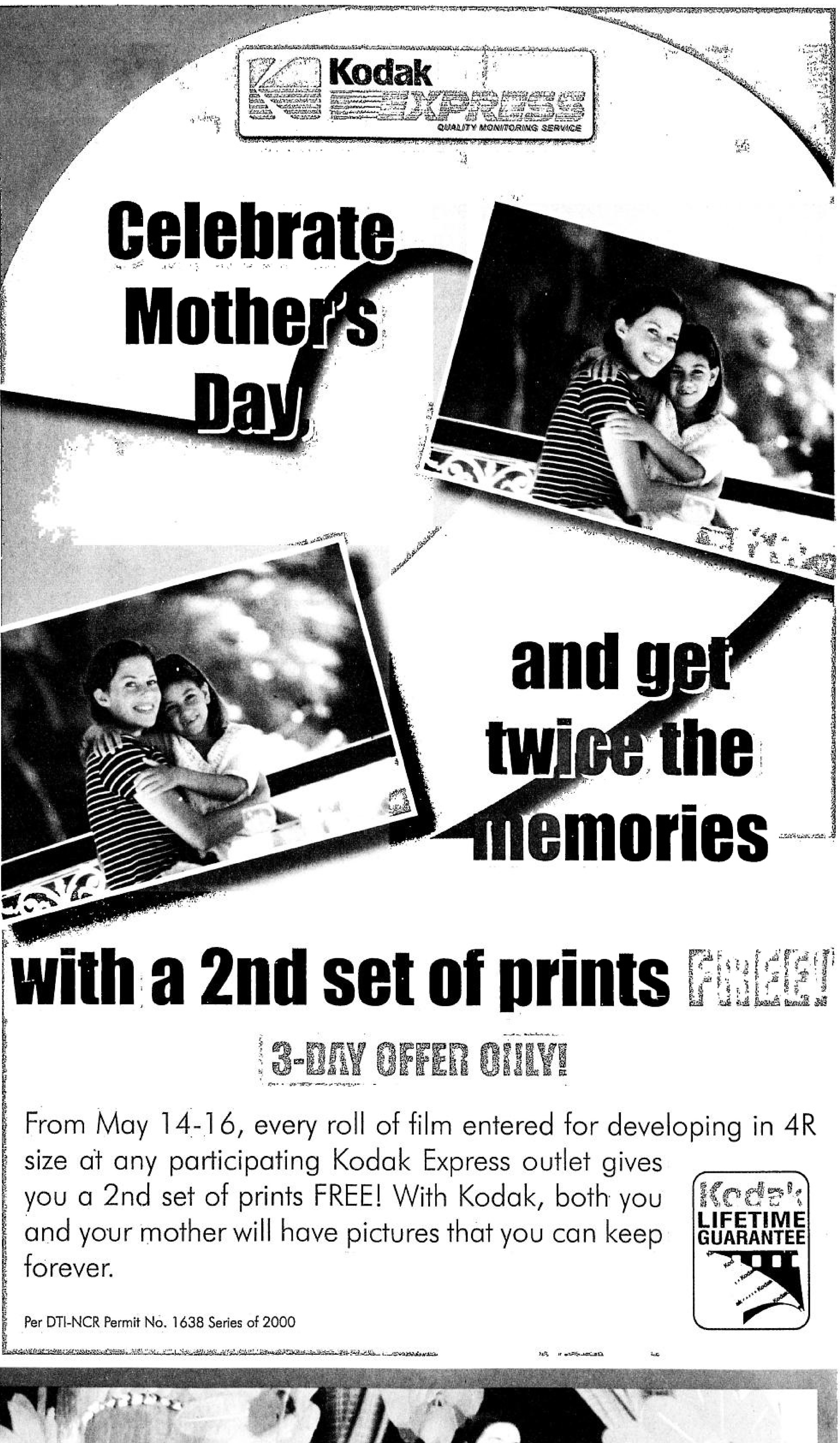
New issue of Art Manila now available

ART Manila, the monthly paper for the visual arts community, has released its latest issue, Volume 2 No. 3. Packed with interesting features, Art Manila introduces readers to art personalities such as David Medalla, a Filipino artist making waves in Europe; Julius Babao, TV host and avid art collector; and sculptor Eduardo Castrillo, whose vision is to have more public works of art in provinces.

Get to know how married couple Elmer Borlongan and Plet Bolipata, both painters, work well together in their cozy home, and how Gabby Barredo comes up with ideas for his surreal sculpture. Also tackled in this issue are the influences of international artists on the works of Filipino painters, such as the Italian artist Afro on Jose Joya, and Peruvian painter Guayasamin on Ang Kiukok.

Art materials supplier Enrique Velasco spills the beans on how he got into the business, as Juan T. Gatbonton recalls the glory days when a Ming jarlet cost P5 and a Hernando Ocampo painting went for P150. Do we need art galleries in the malls? This question was answered by several young artists. For an added treat, Art Manila reviewed the photo exhibit of Neal Oshima at the Museo de la Salle, and the recently concluded "Who Owns Women's Bodies" exhibit at the CCP.

Art Manila is available for P20 a copy at National Bookstore and in most art galleries in Metro Manila.



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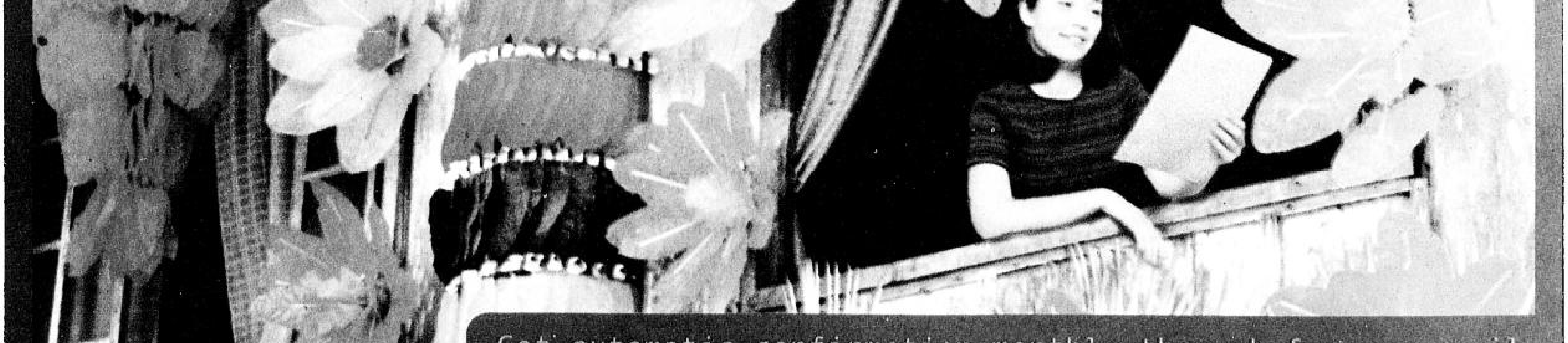

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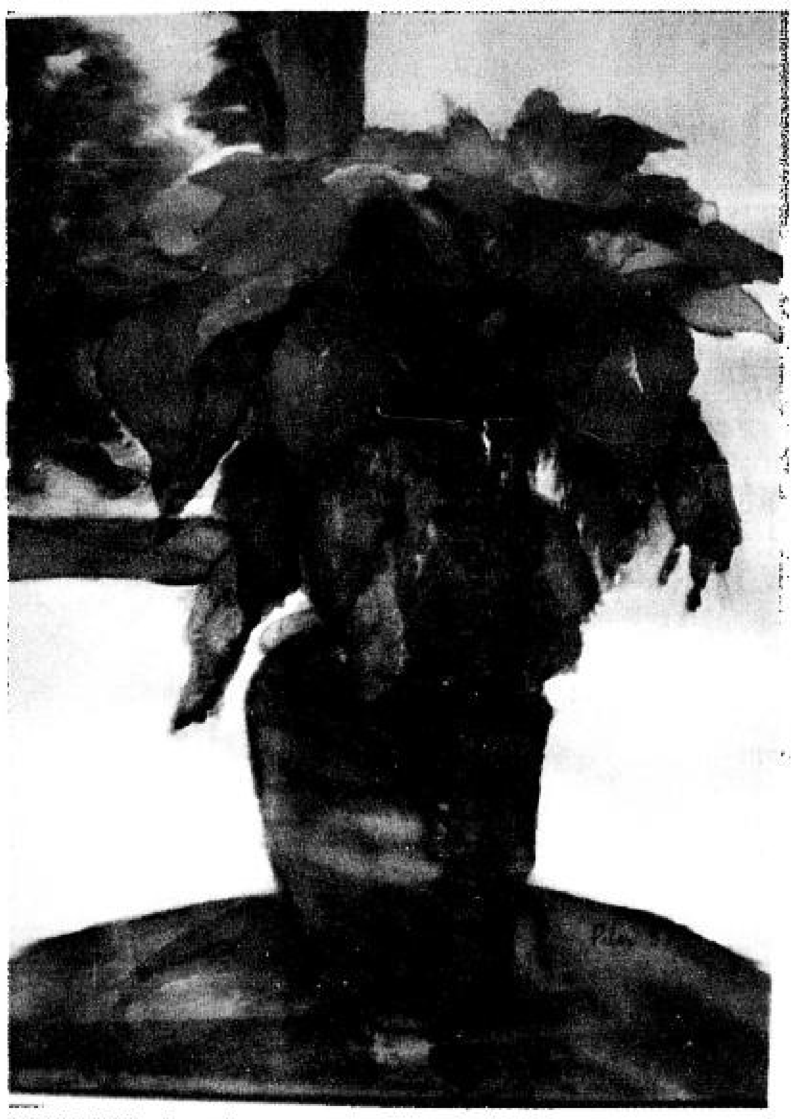

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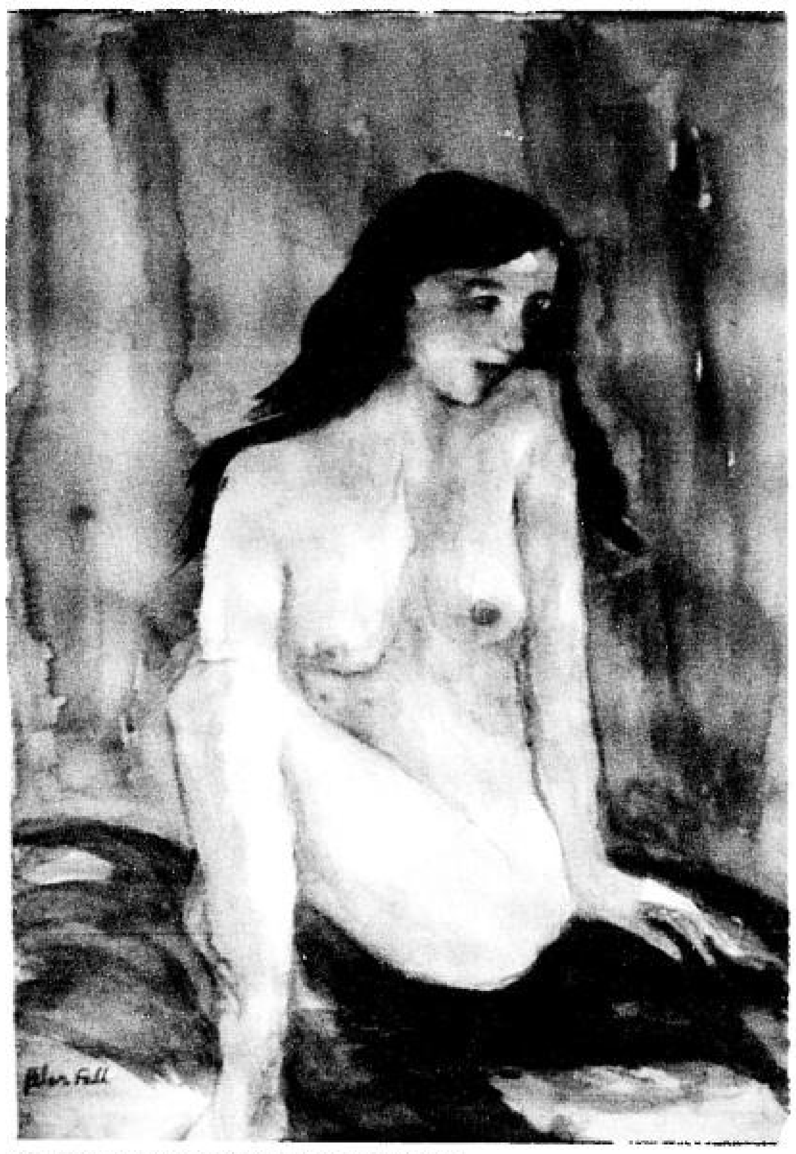


"LAURA." Purity and serenity exemplified

The colors of Fall

By Cathy Babao Guballa

THE COLORS and images of Pilar Fall's watercolor paintings are as rich, vivid and lush as the journey she has taken to get to where she is. Growing up an only child of a solo parent in the Cotabato of the '50s, Nena, as she was called then, loved to pick shells by the beach and arrange them by hue.

From Cotabato, she moved to Manila, got married and worked with the Ateneo de Manila Guidance Department for almost two decades.

When the marriage faltered, she was left to fend for her two growing sons. All this time she would occasionally indulge in painting lessons with coworkers at the Ateneo, and the projects that she created both served as therapy and additional income. In the summer, she would assist in teaching art lessons to preschool children at a friend's Greenhills clinic.

Finding herself

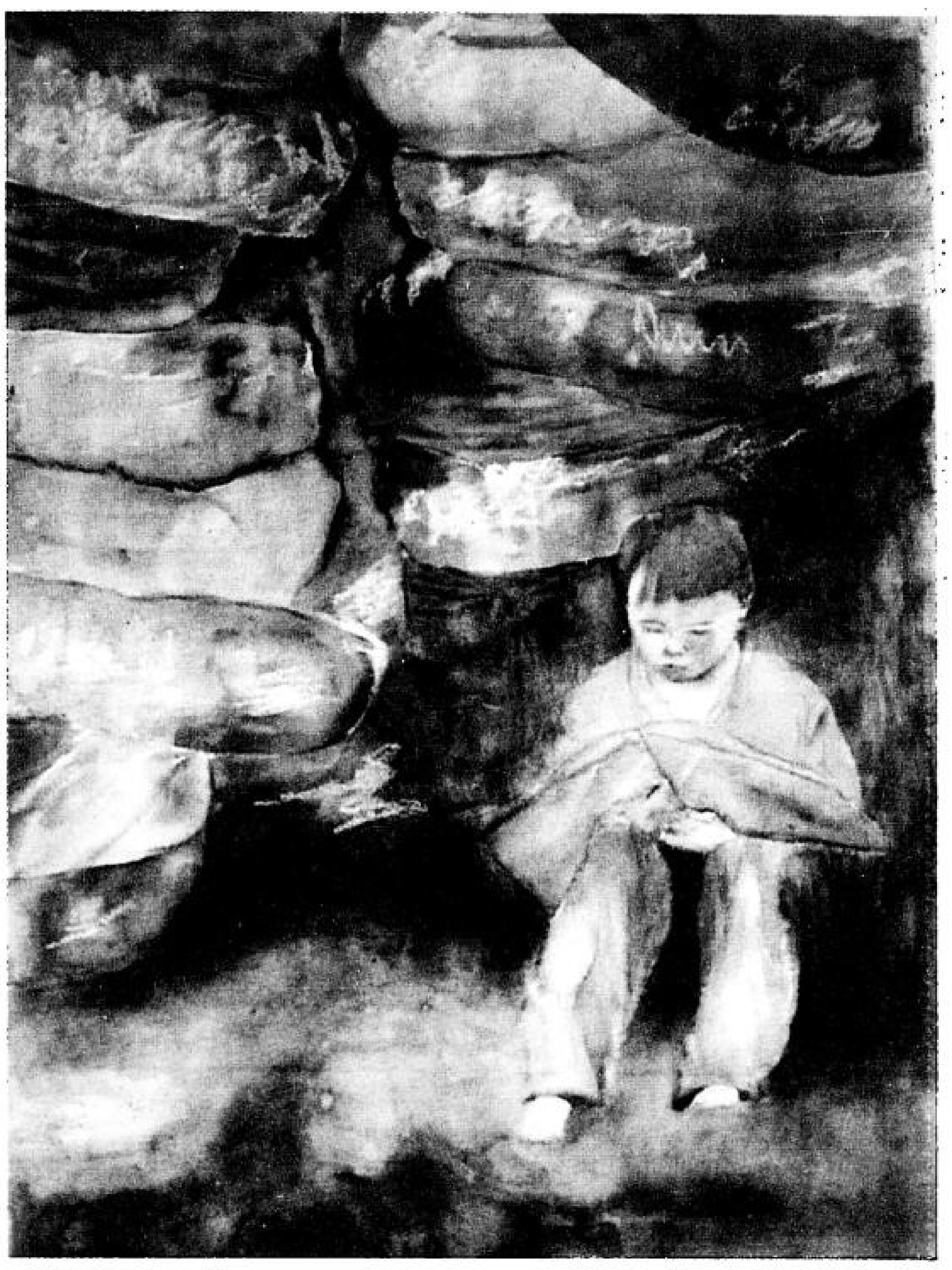
In the early '80s, with the economy in a slump, Nena left for the United States to claim her American heritage. Just before leaving, she met a former yoga teacher who told her that she needed a name change if she wanted to make good in the US. "He said Nena seemed to be too soft and filled with negativity. Pilar, my real name, would serve me in good stead," she recalls.

In the US, she put the art on the backburner and busied herself with trying to make a living. "I took every imaginable job," she says. At the same time, she had the Herculean task of trying to prove her American lineage. "It was almost impossible to prove that my grandfather was American. My mother had lost all the documents," she recounts. Waiting outside a US senator's office, her perseverance paid off when he ordered an inquiry into her parentage. Her determination succeeded as the researchers dug out archives on Zamboanga where her grandfather had been based as chief pharmacist of a US battleship during the war. After a long wait, Pilar finally got her citizenship. She also remarried. Sadly, the marriage did not last but at least she was reunited with both sons whom she had left in Manila.

At a time which she describes as the lowest point in her life, she met a kind American, John Fall, whom she calls "her anchor." Life with him gave her the stability her art needed to blossom.

Learning from the master

Upon moving to San Clemente, a small city in the California Riviera, Pilar found herself close to Laguna Beach, which is a world-renowned artist's colony and home to the annual Laguna Art Festival and Pageant of the Masters. "I remember it was Christmas 1991 when John enrolled me in a two-month painting workshop with *the* Robert E. Wood—past president of the American Watercolor Society." Wood's workshops are much awaited by art enthusiasts across the US. "He only takes in 30 students per class and one has to reserve a year ahead in order to get a slot. Bob Wood was very accepting and so generous with his talent. You learn so much because he doesn't hold back." Pilar recalls how she would cry whenever they did sessions in class because she could not keep up with her classmates. "Bob would approach me in class and say, 'It's okay, I know what you can do; you're just not competitive'." True enough, Pilar would finish the work once she was back in the quiet confines of her loft.



"MIGUELITO"

Pilar Fall's canvases are rich in both joy and pain; they tell of a life that has blossomed and come full circle

Technique, art and soul

Pilar chose watercolor as her medium because she loves its transparency and the flowing quality. In 1994, she exhibited in a Niguel Art Association juried show, where she was awarded honors for her work. Pilar's work is expressionistic and reflects her love for nature and life. Her nudes capture the individual sensuousness of the model, while expressing the diversity of cultures. "Bob Woods made me see the purity and sincerity of a human being in the nude forms we used to do in class." Truly, Pilar's nudes evoke a feeling of purity and sensitivity. Her flowers and scenes from nature are delicate, alive and lush. Looking at her work makes one feel the tranquility that comes from the heart of the artist herself.

"I believe that God gave me this medium to express how I feel about life." Truly, for many years, Pilar kept so much joy and pain in her heart until she was finally able to let go. "I just hope that God will give me more time to paint. Finally, I have something to give to my sons that they can hold on to and hopefully be proud of," she says.

Pilar Fall exhibits "Recuerdos de Mama Desnudas Y Floras" at the Silangan Gardens in Antipolo City. Call 697-1015 or 722-9205.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

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Ex-seminarian recounts St. Michael's apparition to Filipino visionary

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

WITH THE CELEBRATION of the feast of St. Michael the Archangel on May 8, it was timely that the apparition of St. Gabriel the Archangel to a Filipino visionary was told to me by Jose Beredo of Batangas City.

An ex-seminarian who was in second year Theology when he left, there is no doubt that he believed in what the visionary said. He taped the interview for a future book and I am printing it here in full.

St. Gabriel is one of the seven archangels. He was the one who appeared to Mary telling her that she would become the Mother of the Savior. The feast of St. Gabriel and the Archangels is on Sept. 29.

A scent of roses

THE APPARITION happened between 4:30 and 5 p.m. in the visionary's room. She said that she could smell roses.

Visionary (V): There was some kind of a light. Then there was a scent. Scent of roses.

Jose (J): Which came first, the light or the scent?

V: The scent. It was a fragrant smell of roses. The sweetness of roses covered the whole room that one cannot but succumb to this heavenly scent.

J: What did you do? Did you feel scared?

V: I thought it was the Blessed Mother. Every time she appeared there was this same smell all over the room. I made the Sign of the Cross.

J: Then what happened?

V: The light became a silhouette having a figure. Little by little, the image before me became clearer. I saw the wings, the face, the body, then the feet. It was an angel.

J: Were you frightened?

V: No. He introduced himself as St. Gabriel of the Annunciation, one of the seven archangels. I knelt down before him but he asked me to stand up.

J: Why?

V: He told me that he was just a messenger and I should just sit down. So I sat on my bed.

J: What did he look like physically as you saw him? Did you see him clearly enough to describe him?

V: Yes, the vision was very clear. He was wearing a radiantly white robe with gold trimmings, his eyes were meek, and the nose was aquiline.

J: How about the height?

V: He stood at about 5'8". But the wings were higher. His hair was blond, shoulder-length, wavy. He was holding a scroll and a white feather-like pen.

J: Which hand was holding what?

V: The left hand was holding the scroll. The right hand, the pen.

J: Why was the scroll rolled?

V: I also asked that question to St. Gabriel. He told me the time was not yet right to reveal the content of the scroll.

J: What do you think is the content of the scroll?

V: Personally, the Second Coming of Christ.

J: What else did you see?

V: He was wearing laurel leaves around his forehead.

J: What is the meaning of the leaves?

V: I didn't ask.

J: What else did you see?

V: I saw him wearing a red ruby stone around his neck.

J: Like a necklace?

V: Yes.

J: Was it big?

V: About 3 inches in radius.

J: Does it mean something?

HEALING priest Fr. Teofilo Rustia holds the glove relic of Padre Pio.

V: It signifies purity, humility, responsibility and love.

J: Can you elaborate?

V: I can't. I did not ask.

J: Did he give you any message?

V: Yes, but I cannot reveal it now. The time is not yet right. He asked me to pray unceasingly.

J: Did he wear other necklaces?

V: No, only the ruby stone necklace.

J: Did he bless you?

V: Yes, by holding me on the head. Then he said goodbye.

San Miguel pro-cathedral

THE NATIONAL shrine of St. Michael and the Archangels, which is also a pro-cathedral, is located on Solano Street, San Miguel, Manila. Life-size images of the archangels adorn the altar. Its parish priest is Monsignor Laban who invites everyone to attend the novena to the Archangels every Monday at 5:30 p.m.

Padre Pio healing masses

THE GLOVE relic of Padre Pio will be presented for public veneration today at 6:30 p.m. at the chapel of the Manila Seedling Bank at the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC. Organized by the Spirit of Love Catholic Community, Fr. Teofilo Rustia will celebrate the Mass. For inquiries, please call SOLCC Secretariat at 929-3092/3056.

Nuestra Señora de Guia fiesta

THE FEAST of Nuestra Señora de Guia, patroness of Manila, falls on May 19. Novena starts on May 10 at 6 p.m. in Ermita Church until May 18. May 19 was the day a Spanish soldier found the image of Nuestra Señora de Guia in 1571 being venerated by natives on the spot where the church is now located.

Fatima fiesta in Binakayan

BINAKAYAN, Cavite will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13 with a Mass by Bishop Sobrevinas at 5:30 p.m. There will be a *caracol* on May 12. Parish priest is Fr. Virgilio Mendoza.

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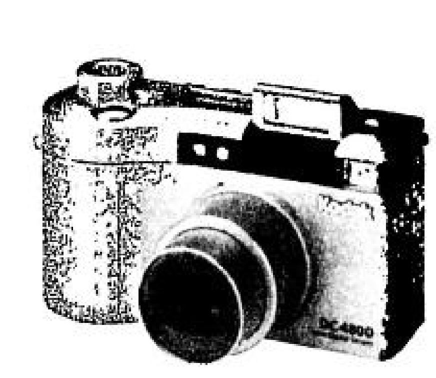

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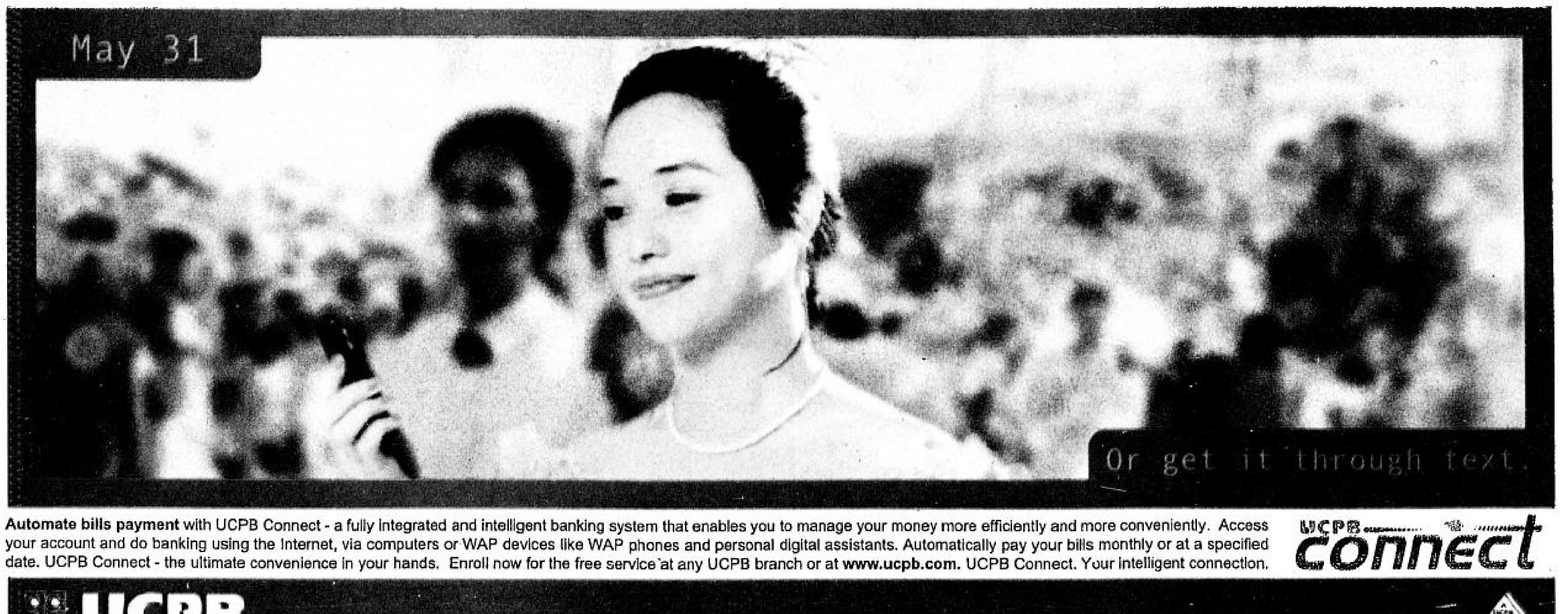
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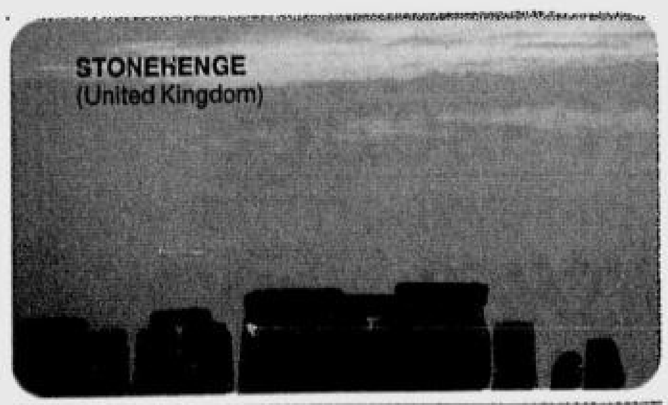
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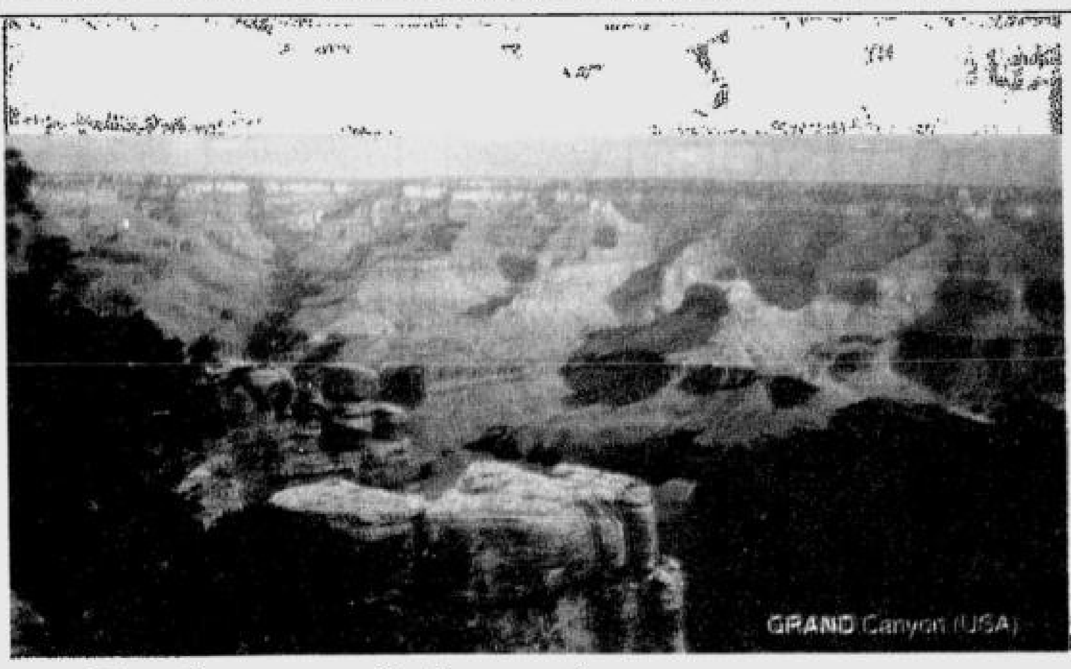
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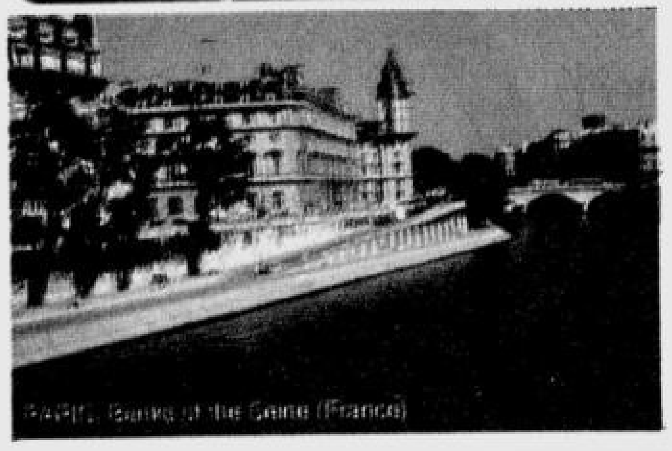

PARIS, Banks of the Seine (France)

Cultural heritage preserves our identity in border-less world

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

THE UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage List has three types of sites: cultural, natural and mixed.

Under the World Heritage Convention, an international law ratified by 118 countries, a cultural heritage site refers to monuments, groups of buildings and sites with historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological, or anthropological value. Natural sites represent outstanding examples of the earth's history, ecological or biological evolution, habitats of threatened species or biological diversity and, most of all, of exceptional natural beauty. Mixed sites, appropriately called cultural landscapes, encompass both outstanding natural and cultural values that illustrate significant interaction between people and their natural environment over a period of time.

Each year, sites are included in the World Heritage List. As of December 2000, the list numbered 630—480 cultural, 128 natural and 22 mixed sites. Europe has 283 sites, Asia and the Pacific 124, the Americas 116 and Arab Africa 70.

As figures indicate, Southeast Asian countries are under-represented in the list.

Imbalances also exist in the types of listed sites. Most of those in the list are cultural sites, with only a small number of mixed sites (cultural landscapes). Southeast Asia's under-representation challenges the region to identify more sites of the highest universal value.

Brotherhood despite diversity

Rather than taking Southeast Asian monuments nominated for the list as isolated sites, we should try to view the region as a whole and formulate a nomination strategy illustrating our shared brotherhood despite the great diversity in our cultures. We should identify the common cultural thread uniting Asians despite their differences.

The Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention define the categories of sites that may be nominated and outline the procedure to be followed for nomination. Since its inception over 25 years ago, the World Heritage Convention has evolved into a dynamic instrument. It has gone beyond the historic and artistic attributes of a property and now looks into the spirit—the genius loci—of monuments and sites. The root of conservation is in maintaining the genius loci of historic places

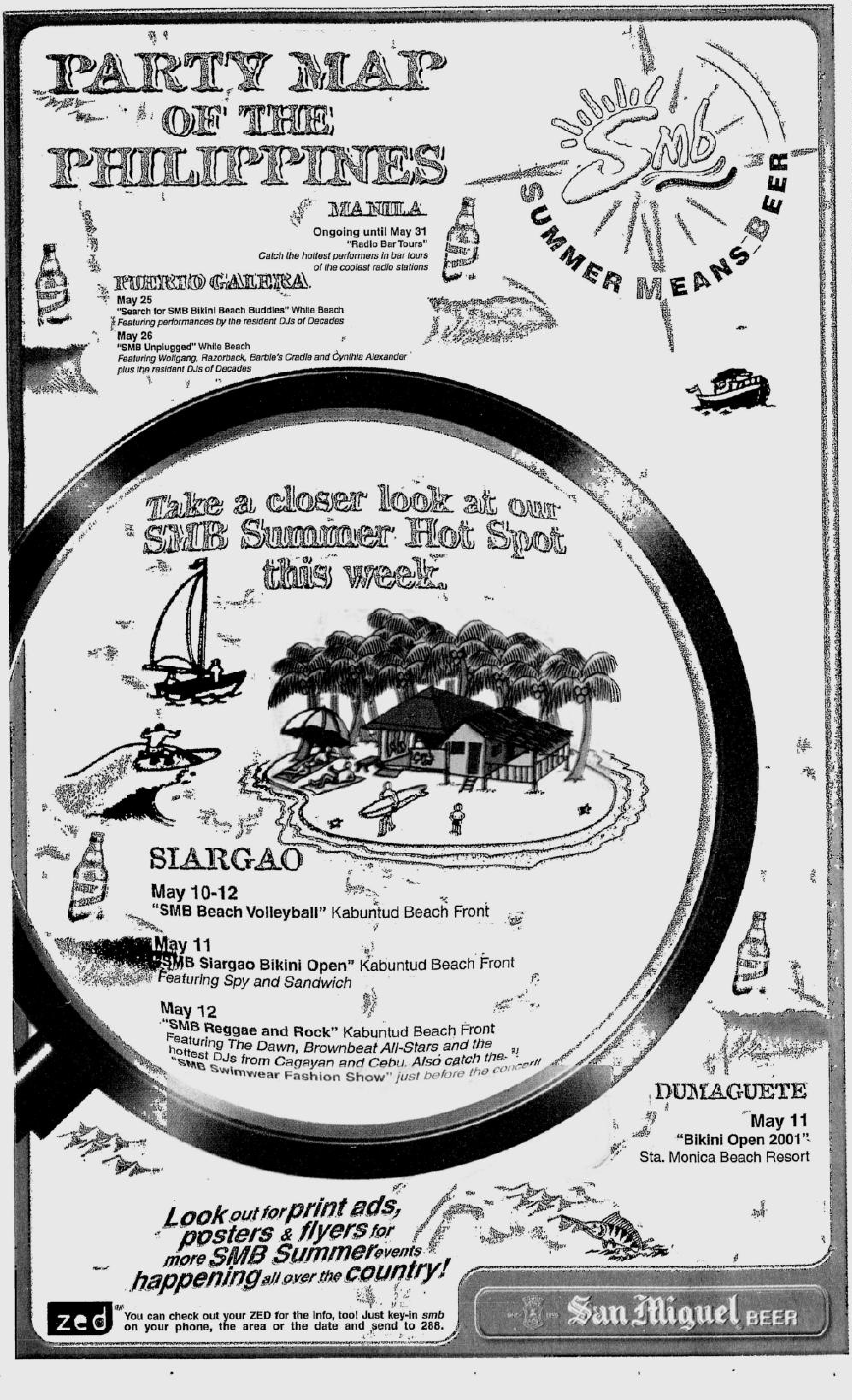
Discussion on protecting monuments and sites cannot avoid the spiritual dimension. The conservation of tangible heritage has become a professional activity with almost standardized procedures that allow success to be easily measured. But we cannot deny that spiritual values, the fragile life-giving intangible qualities of a heritage place, are more difficult to protect than the tangible aspects. The protection of the intangibles is a long-range effort requiring a multidisciplinary approach. Milestones for success are sometimes difficult to visualize or measure.

The basic principle of conservation is minimum intervention. Do only what is necessary to conserve a historic structure and assure its authenticity. Authenticity has to be maintained at all times, whether the historic structure is a fragile vernacular *tongkonan* (vernacular wooden house) of wood and bamboo in a Tana Toraja village or a great stone temple like Borobodur. Authenticity means maintaining the original design, material and workmanship that assures the conservation of a historic structure in the spirit of our particular Southeast Asian cultural heritage, "depending on the nature of the cultural heritage, its cultural context and its evolution through time" as stated in the Nara Document. The Document further states, "authenticity judgements may be linked to the worth of a great variety of sources of information. Aspects of these sources may include form and design, materials

CULTURAL/ p.D3

the world heritage

WORLD Heritage Map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Master story thriller pleases but leaves you wishing for more

Dreamcatcher
By Stephen King
Scribner, New York, 2001
620 pages

BY RUEL S. DE VERA

LOTS of things are buried in Derry," writes Stephen King in his newest novel, "Dreamcatcher." Derry, of course, is the setting for King's novel "It" and thus past playground of Pennywise the Clown surely, for my money, the most frightening King creation ever. This small town still remembers the events of that story, as it does many others. But it is a town now quite busy with the newest disaster King has concocted.

REVIEW

Taking its name from the American Indian charm that gathers dreams, "Dreamcatcher" is a very complex novel that ties together psychological subplots with local legends and that familiar King house of horrors—childhood.

The novel centers on a unique bond shared by childhood buddies Jonsey, Henry, Beaver and Pete. It is an important bond strengthened somehow by their connection to their mentally disabled friend Douglas "Duddits" Cavell. The connection alternately comforts and haunts the foursome as they leave Derry, returning once a year. Now a hunting trip has gone awry and our four protagonists start to notice strange things. After all, King has much more in store for them. Like aliens—the gray, big-eyed kind.

Alien parasites have indeed begun to infect humans with some strange disease. Only the four friends—and Duddits—hold the key to humanity's salvation. No, really. And they must save the world while being

MASTER /p.E2

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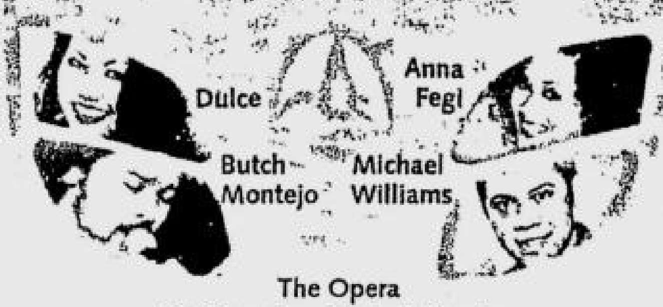

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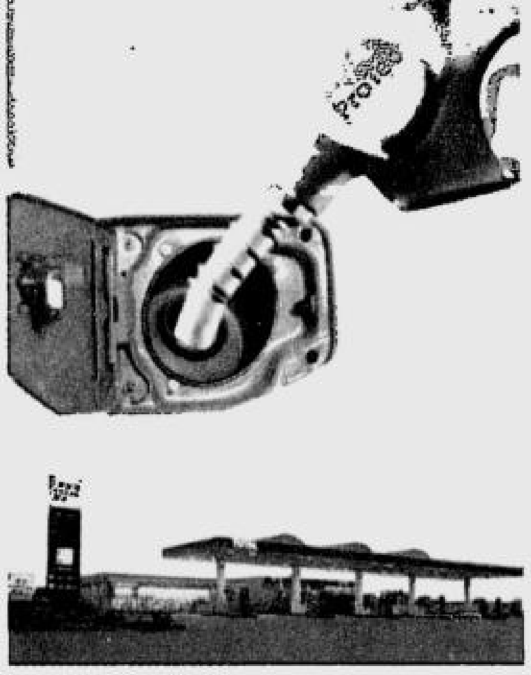

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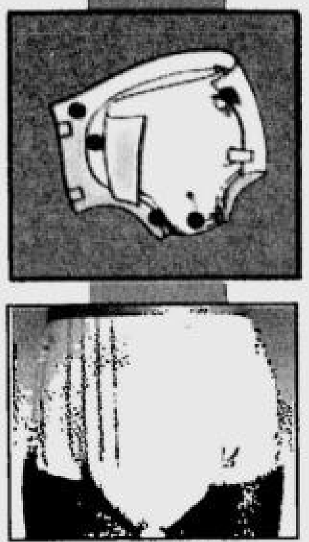

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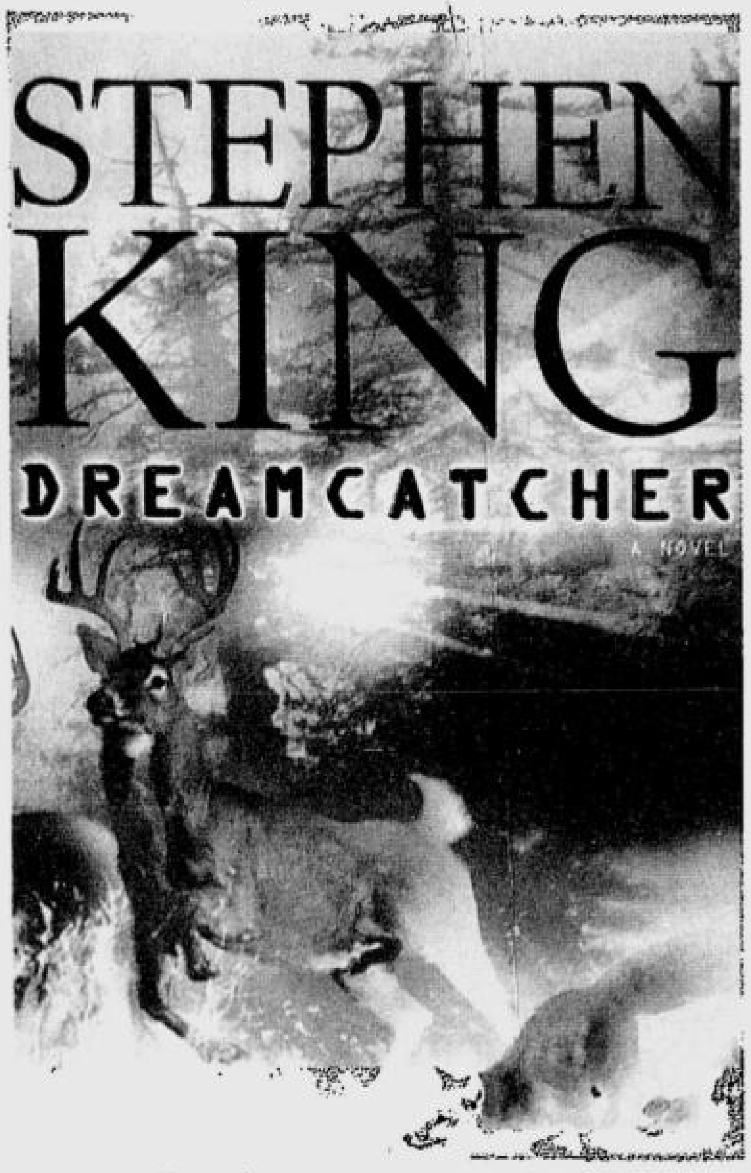
Stephen King's post-accident therapy produces the complex but uneven 'Dreamcatcher'



Master story thriller pleases but leaves you wishing for more

(From page E1)

chased not only by the aliens but also by a former military man who has seen "Apocalypse Now" too many times.

Meanwhile, King explores the four's collective childhood past, finding corpses real and metaphorical, debating the very idea of believing and of leaving home. There's also quite a bit of New Age philosophy as King ties up the novel to telepathy and that "line" we all must see. King reminds us all that the dreamcatcher is also a trap.

Undoubtedly the master of American horror with some 30 books to his credit, King returns to some very old tricks with "Dreamcatcher." But although the book is a hefty 620-page work, it lacks the vividness and cohesion of "Bag of Bones" or "Hearts of Atlantis."

Displaying his trademark sense of pop culture humor, King mines every single alien movie for references, then shocks the reader with vivid scenes of extraterrestrial violence that borders on the grotesque. Let's just say these aliens like to exit their human hosts through an, uh, unexpected orifice. Let's leave it at that.

That being the case, King fuses some truly fascinating concepts with some down-home locales, but also over-extends the book. He takes a little too long to establish the premise and then rushes to tie up all the loose ends. The bloody deaths seem a bit too gratuitous in their number and detail. There is a massive psychological twist that sets up the book's conclusion, which King seems to reveal with both stage lights and overwrought fanfare.

Unlike his last books that were quiet and thoughtfully satisfying, King's "Dreamcatcher," thrilling and chilling in parts, comes off as being somewhat standard King fare toward the end. But the language and the setup are vintage King, solid and effective.

That King managed to write the book at all is what impresses. "Dreamcatcher" is the first novel he's written since his horrendous accident while jogging near his Maine home in 1999. "I was in a lot of physical discomfort during those six and a half months, and the book took me away," he writes in his author's note.

"Dreamcatcher" is a very readable and engrossing, if overly long, novel. From another author perhaps it would be considered great. But coming from a sublimely talented author, "Dreamcatcher" feels like something he came up with in his sleep.

So simply consider "Dreamcatcher" as Stephen King's exercise and therapy—a crowd-pleasing if unspectacular novel. We await the books that will surely come next from the master when he is back in top form. And surely that's no pipe dream.

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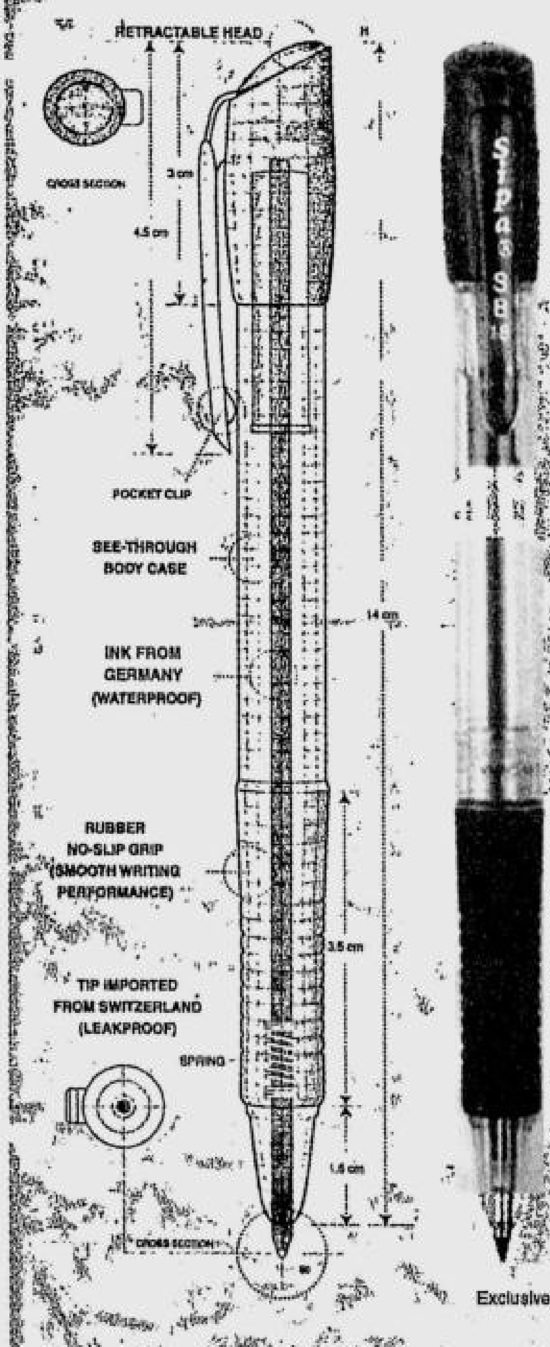
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'Mother Tongue' goes to Onstage Greenbelt

ACTOR'S Actors Inc. brings "Mother Tongue" by Paul Stephen Lim to Onstage Greenbelt for two more performances.

Directed by Chris Millado, the play presents Bart Guingona, Nieves Campa and Miren Alvarez. Also featured are Richard Cunanan, Kate Fernandez and Bobby Greenwood.

"Mother Tongue" is a semi-autobiographical drama-comedy of a Chinese Filipino expatriate in the United States who teaches English at Kansas University. The play examines David Lee's life, his loves, his lineage and his aspirations through the veil of an all-too-Oriental psyche embodied by two incarnations of his mother—the young, picture bride from Amoy and the aging battle axe in Manila—who seem to permanently share the stage of David's thoughts.

"Mother Tongue" goes to Onstage, Greenbelt on May 18 and 19, 8 p.m. Call AAI at 536-5844 or Onstage Greenbelt at 752-7862 and 893-6767.

Petalver mounts piano recital

CASA San Miguel presents pianist Jourdann Petalver in a solo recital on May 11, 6 p.m., at the La Porte Hall, Miriam College Music Center.

Petalver graduated from the Philippine High School for the Arts in Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna, and had a recital at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in March 1999 which earned him a gold medal for Artistic Excellence in Music.

He started playing the piano at age 11 under Cora Mirano and later on studied with Prof. Avelina Manalo, recipient of the Italian Government Scholarship Award in Rome in 1960-62 under Renzo Silvestri and Renata Borgatti, both juries of various competitions in Rio de Janeiro, Brussels and in Europe.

After graduating high school, Petalver took up choral conducting at the UP Diliman under professors Nonoy Diestro, Janet Sabas-Aracama (UP Concert Chorus) and Eudenice Palaruan.

His repertoire includes Beethoven's Sonata in C-sharp minor, Avelina Manalo's "Katlala," Prokofiev's "Toccata," Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 and Bach's Concerto for Pianoforte in D minor to be accompanied by the Pundaquit Chamber Players.

The concert is free to the public.

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Sat., May 9 9AM - 3PM Fee:P1,800

Reiki II

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Sat., May 26 9AM - 3PM Fee: P2,500

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Full payment is due prior to class.

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Mae: 844-4384, or Ethel/ Den: 522-4512

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Saturday, May 19 & 26. 5-9PM
Sunday, May 20&27. 1-5 PM Fee: P3,200

Attire: Wear comfortable and casual clothes. Jeans are okay. Snacks are provided.
**No tape recording or video taping is allowed.*

Classes facilitated by:
ELIZA ZAPANTA-HILL,
Reiki Master/Teacher;
Expressive Art Facilitator

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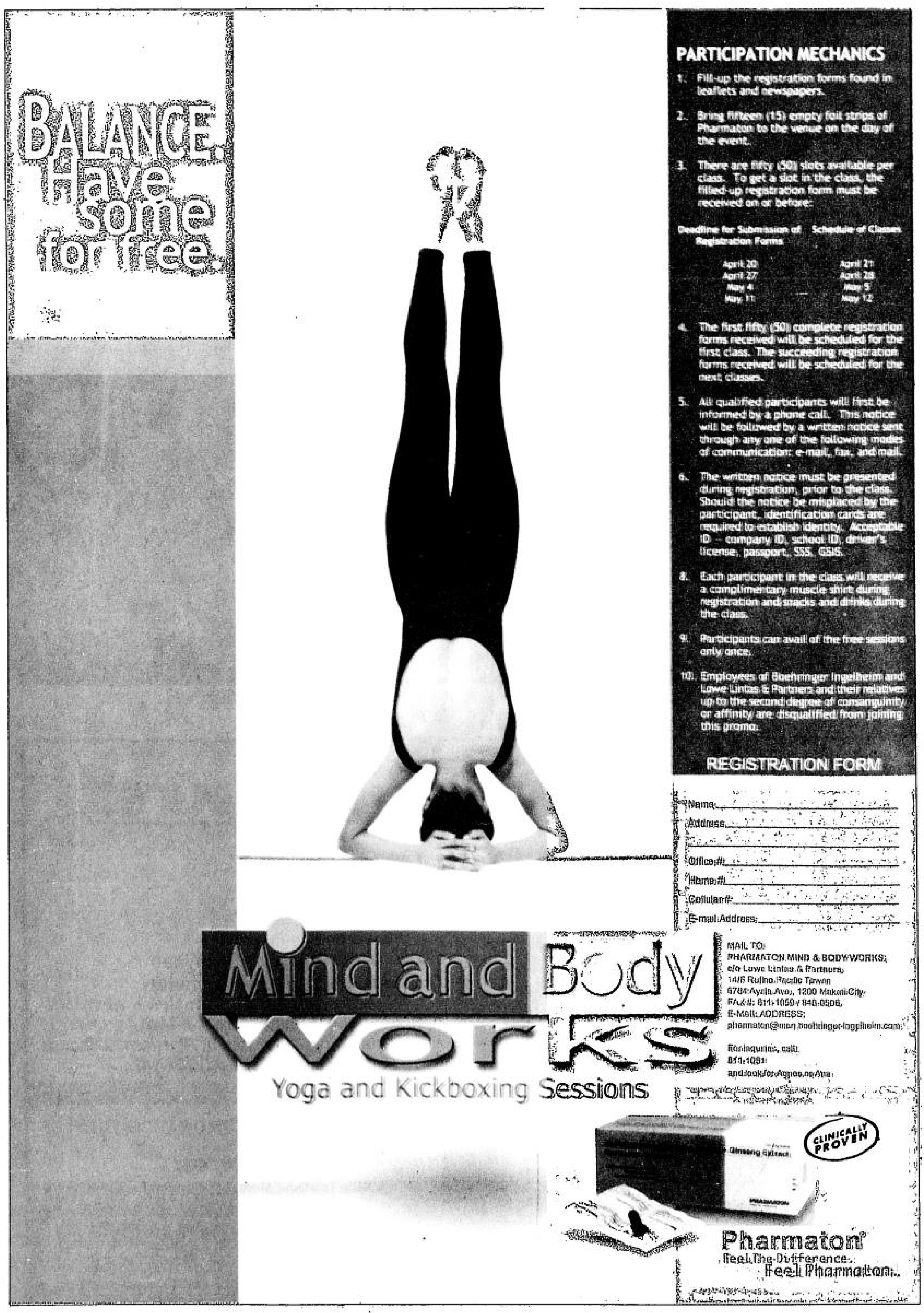

PARTICIPATION MECHANICS

1. Fill-up the registration forms found in leaflets and newspapers.
2. Bring fifteen (15) empty foil strips of Pharmaton to the venue on the day of the event.
3. There are fifty (50) slots available per class. To get a slot in the class, the filled-up registration form must be received on or before:

Deadline for Submission of Registration Forms	Schedule of Classes
April 20	April 21
April 27	April 28
May 4	May 5
May 11	May 12

4. The first fifty (50) complete registration forms received will be scheduled for the first class. The succeeding registration forms received will be scheduled for the next classes.
5. All qualified participants will first be informed by a phone call. This notice will be followed by a written notice sent through any one of the following modes of communication: e-mail, fax, and mail.
6. The written notice must be presented during registration, prior to the class. Should the notice be misplaced by the participant, identification cards are required to establish identity. Acceptable ID – company ID, school ID, driver's license, passport, SSS, GSIS.
8. Each participant in the class will receive a complimentary muscle shirt during registration and snacks and drinks during the class.
9. Participants can avail of the free sessions only once.
10. Employees of Boehringer Ingelheim and Lowe Lintas & Partners and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promo.

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and look for Aggee or Ana.

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GROOVE
With Blizzard
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Tia Maria's REMEDIOS
May 15 , 2001 , 8:00 p.m.

JOSE CUERVO
BAR TOUR
Tia Maria's TOMAS MORATO
May 11
Tia Maria's JUPITER
May 12
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May 19

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Offer is good for dine in only
Promo runs May 5 to 31, 2001

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HAPPY HOUR
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Buy ONE Pitcher of Zombie
Get ONE Pitcher of Zombie
FREE
Offer is good for dine in only
Promo runs May 5 to 31, 2001

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PICK-A PRIZE
for a chance to win
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Tia Maria's T-SHIRT,
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Promo runs May 5 to 31, 2001

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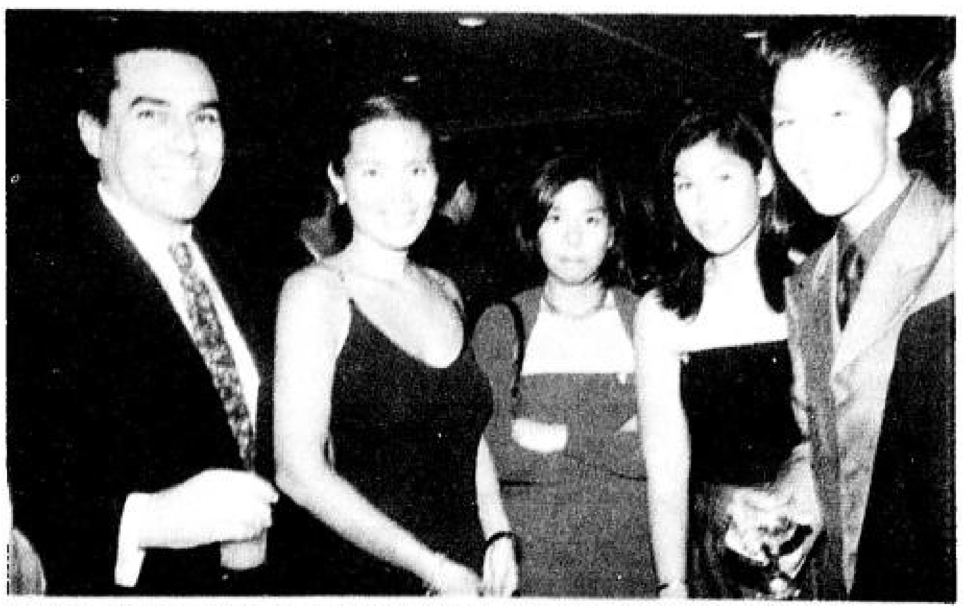
Per DTI NCR Permit # 1244 series of 2001

DON Enrique Zobel surrounded by Sophia and Patxi Elizalde, Conchitina Sevilla, Georgina and Alejandro Padilla y Zobel, Dedes Zobel, Anton Roxas and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala


JAVIER San Juan Galatas, Jessica Guevarra, Caroline, Lorraine and Frank Evaristo

Nang Sevilla is latest Premio Zobel recipient

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

GEORGINA Padilla and her brother **Alejandro** get well-deserved bravos for pulling off another successful Premio Zobel event on April 26. The country's oldest literary award, now on its 81st year, went to ailing **Lina Obieta "Nang" Sevilla**, directress and founder of the Fundacion de la Lengua Hispanica en Filipinas which hopes to reintegrate Spanish into the Philippine curriculum.

A record crowd of friends came for the handing of the award, which was received by the honoree's popular daughter **Conchitina Bernardo** from Don **Gonzalo MacCrohon**, Georgina's handsome little boy, actually no longer little but still handsome. In case you didn't know, Gonzalo is the great-grandson of the late Don **Enrique Zobel de Ayala** who started it all. Tradition was continued by his daughter, Doña **Gloria Zobel de Padilla**, and Don **Ricardo Padilla y Satrustegui**. Now you know.

PROF. Lourdes Brillantes, author of the book "80 Años del Premio Zobel"

The *simpatica* Conchitina delivered a much-applauded response, warming the cockles of **Pitoy Moreno's** heart judging by his wide smile. Fellow journalist, good friend and guest of honor **Chitang Guerrero Nakpil** said in her speech that—if I'm not mistaken—it was really Spain's fault that the language of **Cervantes** didn't catch on. I'd say blame it on Coca-Cola, Madison Avenue and Disneyland.

Inter-Con's Sky Top was so full of guests I saw two slabs of *jamon serrano* drift by and disappear swiftly. In a corner, **Mary Prieto**, making one of her few evening appearances, was chatting with **Manoling** and **Chito Madrigal Collantes**, brilliant in a cherry red satin suit and diamonds. Don Enrique Zobel, the uncle, was as usual surrounded by well-wishers including **Vicky Quirino Delgado** and **Don Paco**, **Lizzie** and **Jaime Augusto Zobel**, and former ambassador to Spain **Isabel Wilson**. **Nando** and **Chris Vasquez-Prada**, who was her usual elegant self in pearl-gray silk, were enjoying their drinks with **Anton Roxas** and **Conchita Toda**.

At the end of the program, Georgina, wearing heirloom *piña*, presented former Spanish Ambassador **Delfin Colomé's** book project, "80 Años del Premio Zobel en Filipinas." It was written by the 1998 Premio Zobel awardee, **Lourdes Brillantes**, who was escorted by our next National Artist for Literature after **Frankie Jose**, **Greg Brillantes** (that is, of course, if I had anything to say about it).

And what is this I hear that **Sonny Osmeña** went around insulting *tisoys*? Wasn't his mom an American? And what about **Johnny Ponce Enrile's** grandchildren and wife, not to mention his dad? And **Jamby Madrigal** saying "*Tayong mahihirap…?*" Excuse me? The whole country must be going nuts.

BETH Day Romulo, Ambassador Isabel Caro Wilson and Fr. Gabriel Casal

GEORGINA presenting former Ambassador Delfin Colomé's book project, "80 Years of Premio Zobel in the Philippines."

ARANTXA Bañon, Lizzie and Jaime Augusto Zobel, Fred and Mia Borromeo

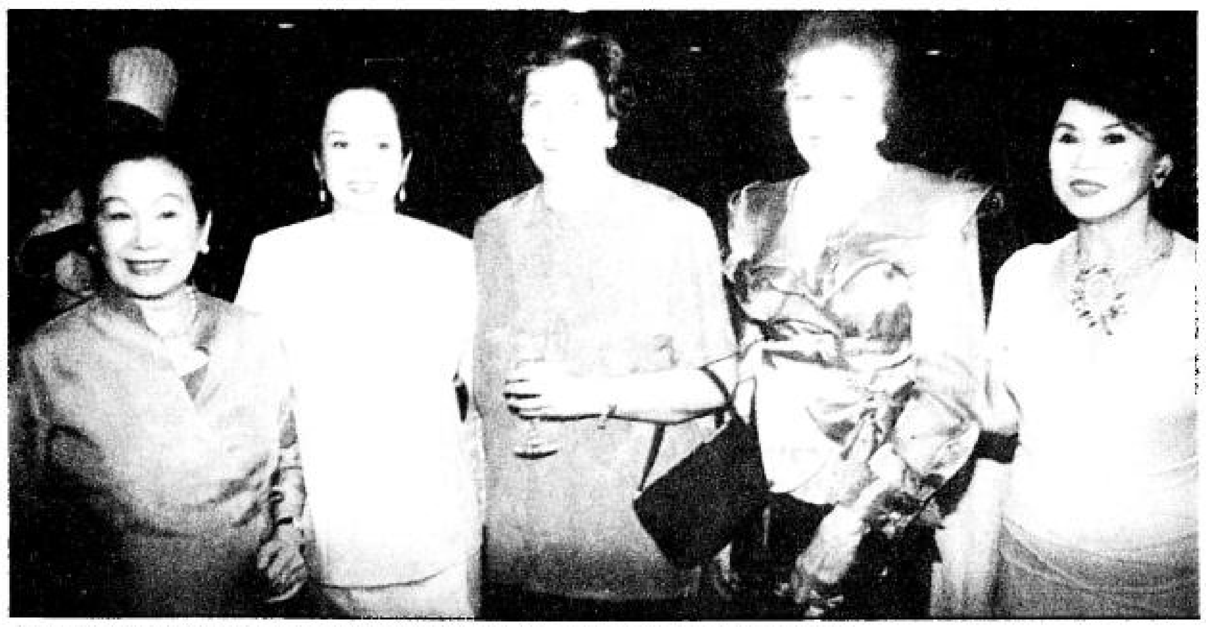
ARCHBISHOP Diosdado Talamayan and Pitoy Moreno

MARILOU Prieto Lovina, Victoria Preysler

CONCHITINA receiving the Premio Zobel for her mom, Nang Sevilla, from Gonzalo MacCrohon.

OLIVIA Romulo

AMBASSADOR of Spain Don Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja, Conchitina Sevilla Bernardo, Gonzalo MacCrohon y Padilla, Georgina and Alejandro Padilla y Zobel


JOSIE Sy, Conchitina Bernardo, Miren Berenguer, a guest and Tereret Liboro

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P 300	10	+	3	+	26	= 39hrs.	P 7.69
P 500	20	+	0	+	40	= 60hrs.	P 8.33

Promo [illegible] 07 to May 31, 2001 to all; P100 (4hrs.+4hrs.+4hrs.= 12 Free hours), P 200 (8hrs.+8[illegible]ree hours), P 300 (13hrs.+13hrs.+13hrs.= 39 Free hrs.), & P 500 (20hrs.+20hrs.+20hrs.= 60 Free [illegible] will have the additional hours if used within 1am - 8am.

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Women's Week Movie Festival on Hallmark Channel

Join Hallmark for a week of films honoring women all over the world. Women who fight the good fight and make the world a better place. Films starring actresses with an ability to bring complex issues to life on the screen. See yourself in these remarkable women who wage major battles and celebrate small victories. Who speak out. Who listen. These women are reflections of all women. See yourself.

May 7 • **Women of Windsor**

May 8 • **Cupid & Cate**

May 9 • **True Women**

May 10 • **Love is Strange**

May 11 • **Christy: Return to Cuttergap**

May 12 • **Touched by an Angel - New series**

May 13-14 • **Jackie, Ethel, Joan:** *Women of Camelot*
Big Event Premiere

JACKIE, ETHEL, JOAN
Women of Camelot

A Tribute to Filipino Women on TV and Film

Sharon Cuneta

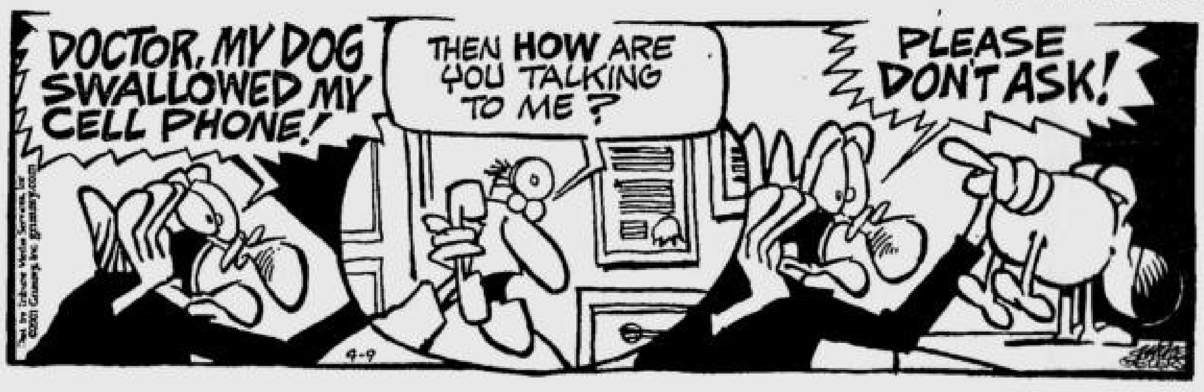
In celebration of
Women's Week and Mother's Day
Hallmark Channel honors two
special women who are shining
examples of womanhood.
Two women of character,
artists of distinction, and
remarkable mothers.

Laurice Guillen

A special recognition program will be held at Ayala Museum, Makati City
2:00 p.m. May 7, 2001
(by invitation only)

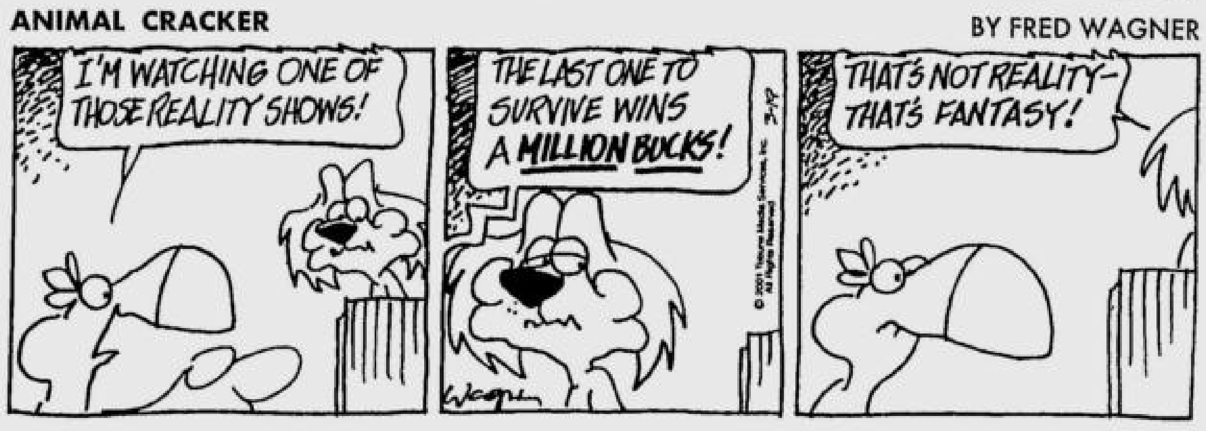
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


DOCTOR, MY DOG SWALLOWED MY CELL PHONE!
THEN HOW ARE YOU TALKING TO ME?
PLEASE DON'T ASK!
4-9

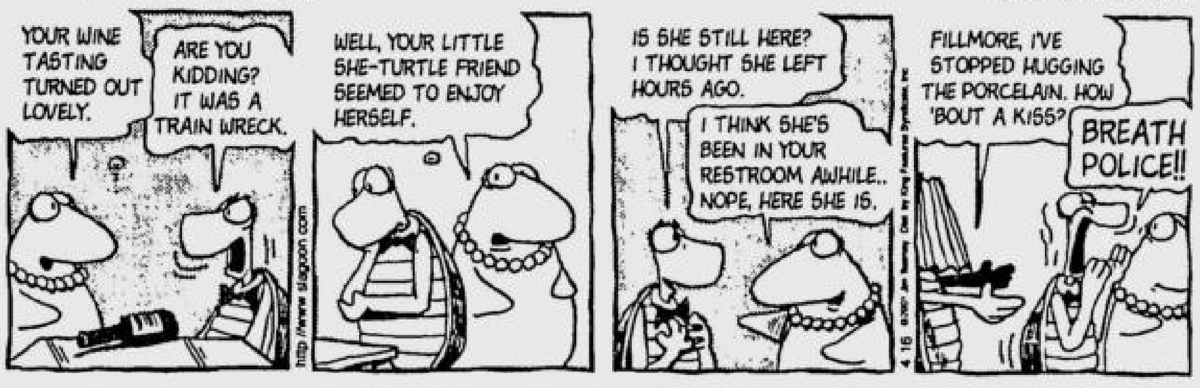
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I'M WATCHING ONE OF THOSE REALITY SHOWS!
THE LAST ONE TO SURVIVE WINS A MILLION BUCKS!
THAT'S NOT REALITY— THAT'S FANTASY!

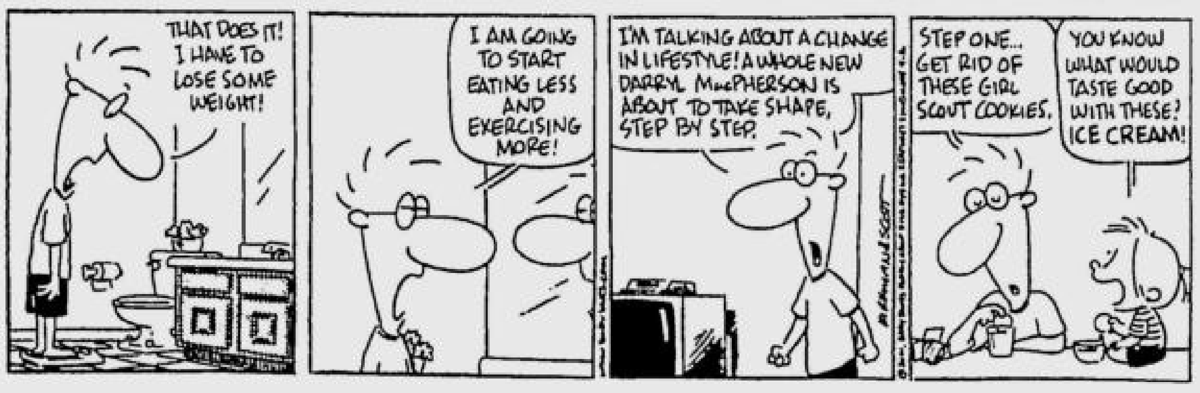
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


YOUR WINE TASTING TURNED OUT LOVELY.
ARE YOU KIDDING? IT WAS A TRAIN WRECK.
WELL, YOUR LITTLE SHE-TURTLE FRIEND SEEMED TO ENJOY HERSELF.
IS SHE STILL HERE? I THOUGHT SHE LEFT HOURS AGO.
I THINK SHE'S BEEN IN YOUR RESTROOM AWHILE.. NOPE, HERE SHE IS.
FILLMORE, I'VE STOPPED HUGGING THE PORCELAIN. HOW 'BOUT A KISS?
BREATH POLICE!!
http://www.slagoon.com
4-16

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THAT DOES IT! I HAVE TO LOSE SOME WEIGHT!
I AM GOING TO START EATING LESS AND EXERCISING MORE!
I'M TALKING ABOUT A CHANGE IN LIFESTYLE! A WHOLE NEW DARRYL MacPHERSON IS ABOUT TO TAKE SHAPE, STEP BY STEP.
STEP ONE... GET RID OF THESE GIRL SCOUT COOKIES.
YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD TASTE GOOD WITH THESE? ICE CREAM!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Darren McGavin, Anne Baxter, Robert Hegyes, Peter Reckell, Janis Ian, Ruth Prawer Jhabvala

Happy Birthday: Stick to basics this year. Some of your ideas may not be as reasonable as you think. It is best to ask someone you can trust for sound advice regarding your plans. You may not be thinking as clearly as usual, which could lead you into a dubious get-rich-quick scheme. Your numbers: 3, 15, 24, 27, 32, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Drastic financial changes will occur if you are involved in a joint venture. Help an older relative update legal documents. You will be rewarded for your help.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your partner will lose patience if you neglect to ask for feedback. Include him or her in your plans or you may not be in a relationship at all. Don't let your stubborn attitude get in the way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get on with your business plans. Time is money, and to reach your highest potential you must be ready to take action. Personal alterations will be in your best interests.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Travel and educational pursuits will enhance your own awareness. New relationships will open doors that have been closed in the past. Take care of small but important details.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's best to catch up on your household duties to avoid another disruptive encounter. This is not the best day to discuss your plans with loved ones. They aren't likely to understand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You need to get out and rub shoulders with those in high places. You can receive help achieving your goals if you present your thoughts to the right people.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can accomplish the most if you don't let others know what you're doing. Career changes may be sudden, but if you move quickly, you will make financial gains.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Deception is likely. Insincere gestures of friendliness may be misleading. Travel may be confusing. Minor accidents or injury will prevail if you are preoccupied and careless.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you rely on others, you will be disappointed. Make an effort to go after your objectives. Delays in mail or communications will be annoying. Be persistent but diplomatic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Friends will confess to having problems with their mates. You can offer suggestions, but don't get caught in the middle of their dilemmas. You need to get out and meet new people.

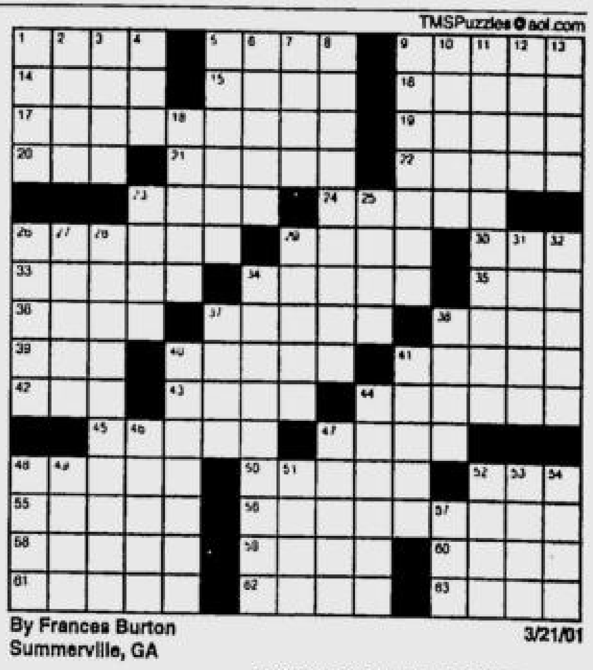
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Jealousy may be the cause of problems at work. Re-evaluate your motives and make sure that your plans will benefit everyone involved.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Travel will initiate new friendships. You will have a thirst to find out more about foreign cultures and philosophies. Look to individuals you trust and respect for sound advice and information.

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast, inquisitive and charming. You have a way with words that will draw attention whenever you speak. You have an open, direct way of dealing with whatever and whoever gets in your way.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Frances Burton
Summerville, GA

3/21/01

ACROSS
1 Indy or Daytona 500
5 Thompson of "Peter's Friends"
9 Parsonage
14 Actor Sharif
15 Weaver's frame
16 Native Alaskan
17 Atlanta Rhythm Section song
19 Bring down
20 Compass pt.
21 Loafer
22 Storage battery terminal
23 Gypsy Rose and Pinky
24 Less cordial
26 Guys with bread?
29 Surefire shots
30 Sci. workplace
33 Ladd and Hale
34 Hackneyed
35 "Evil Woman" rock grp.
36 William Gibson's "__ Lisa Overdrive"
37 Feeble
38 Discomfort
39 Public vehicle
40 Dirties
41 Inasmuch as
42 Director Lupino
43 Seek prey
44 Removed suds
45 Wading bird
47 "Pretty Woman" man
48 Mother-of-pearl
50 Word before pipe or officer
52 August sign
55 Spirit of "The Tempest"
56 Billy Joel song
58 Went out with
59 __ Bator, Mongolia
60 Out of the wind
61 Chasm
62 Final
63 Large group

DOWN
1 Took the bus
2 Book after Joel
3 Feel concern
4 Time of note
5 Slurs over
6 Gangsters' gals
7 Burrowing mammal
8 Uncle Sam's relatives?
9 Mild depression
10 "Home __"
11 Gary (U.S.) Bonds song
12 Took to court
13 Tours to be?
18 Contenders
23 Actress Olin
25 Breton, e.g.
26 Disney classic
27 So to be heard
28 Wilbert Harrison song
29 At an angle
31 Looking-glass girl
32 __ up (studied)
34 Apostle to the Gentiles
37 Sports infraction
38 Yearn (for)
40 Protection providers
41 Temptress
44 Newfangled
46 Elders and alders
47 Festivals
48 Nothing in Nogales
49 Part of U.A.E.
51 Ms. Fitzgerald
52 "Damn Yankees" character
53 She sheep
54 "A Room of __ Own"
57 __-o'-shanter

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

Z	A	P	P	A	■	R	I	M	■	B	A	S	A	L
A	R	S	O	N	■	I	D	O	■	A	G	A	N	A
G	R	I	S	T	■	G	E	O	■	R	A	N	K	S
■	■	■	H	I	G	H	A	N	D	T	I	G	H	T
C	A	P	■	H	I	T	■	L	E	O	N	■	■	■
A	R	I	S	E	N	■	O	I	N	K	■	P	F	C
S	M	E	A	R	■	O	R	G	S	■	S	L	U	R
B	A	C	K	O	F	F	T	H	E	P	L	A	T	E
A	D	E	S	■	A	L	O	T	■	I	O	N	I	A
H	A	S	■	S	C	A	N	■	A	N	G	E	L	S
■	■	■	A	N	T	H	■	P	R	O	■	T	E	E
P	U	R	P	O	S	E	P	I	T	C	H	■	■	■
S	P	O	O	R	■	R	A	N	■	H	E	R	O	N
S	T	A	R	T	■	T	N	T	■	L	L	A	N	O
T	O	R	T	S	■	Y	E	S	■	E	D	G	E	D

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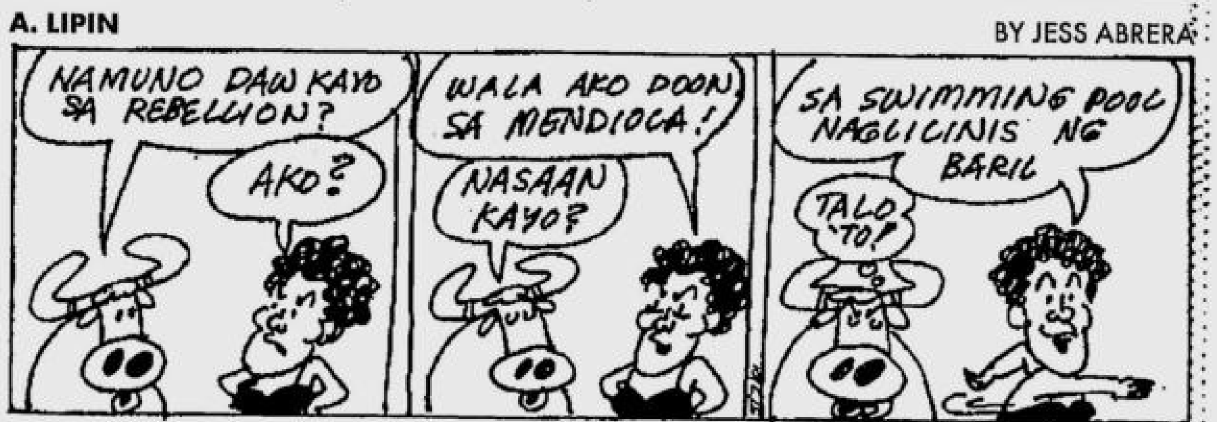
3/21/01

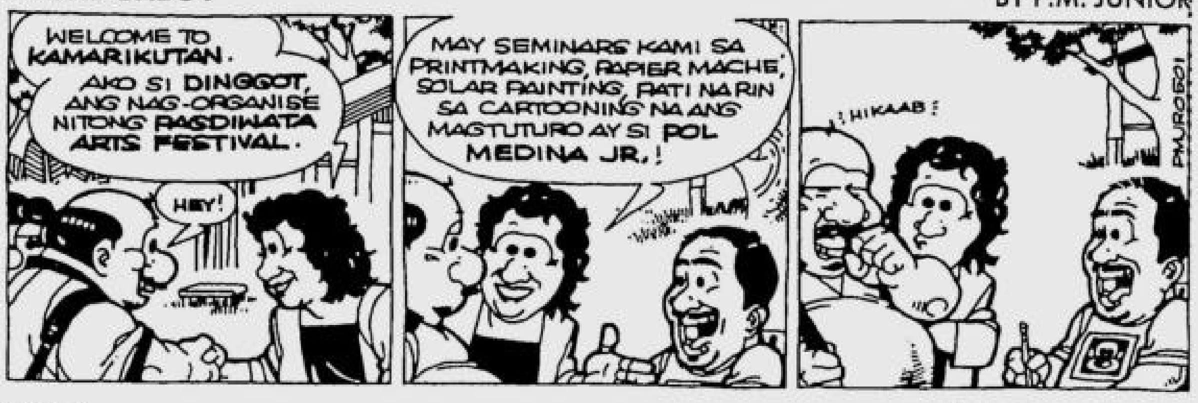
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAMUNO DAW KAYO SA REBELLION?
AKO?
WALA AKO DOON, SA MENDIOLA!
NASAAN KAYO?
SA SWIMMING POOL NAGLILINIS NG BARIL
TALO 'TO!

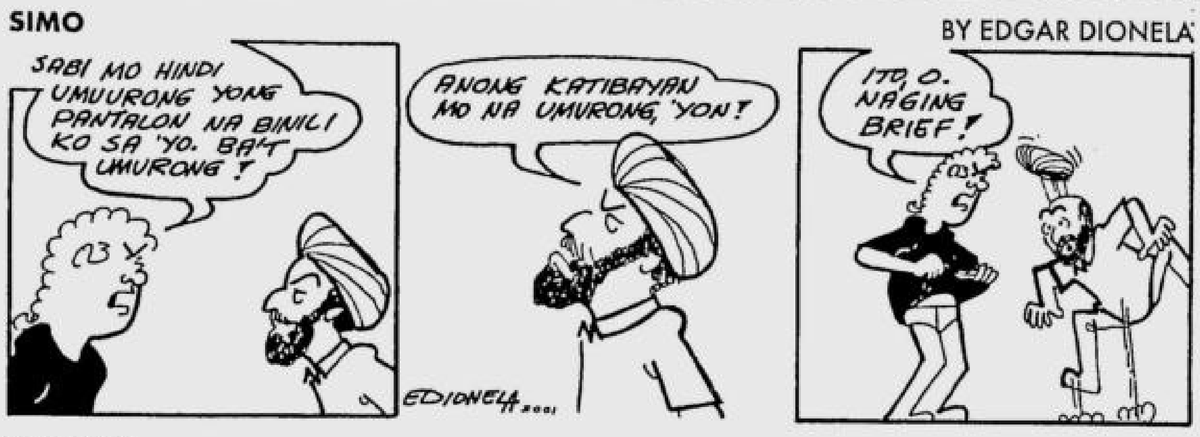
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


WELCOME TO KAMARIKUTAN.
AKO SI DINGGOT, ANG NAG-ORGANISE NITONG PASDIWATA ARTS FESTIVAL.
HEY!
MAY SEMINARS KAMI SA PRINTMAKING, PAPIER MACHE, SOLAR PAINTING, PATI NA RIN SA CARTOONING NA ANG MAGTUTURO AY SI POL MEDINA JR.!
!HIKAAB!
PMJR0501

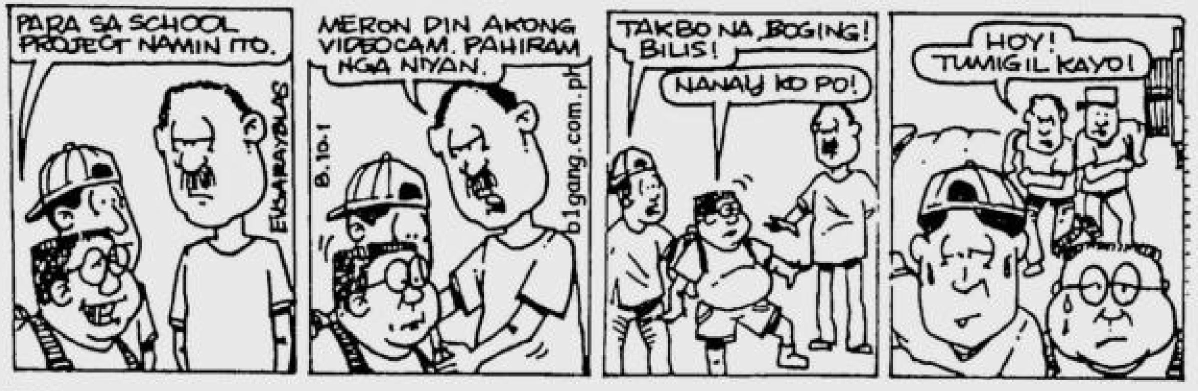
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SABI MO HINDI UMUURONG YONG PANTALON NA BINILI KO SA 'YO. BA'T UMURONG?
ANONG KATIBAYAN MO NA UMURONG 'YON?
ITO O. NAGING BRIEF!
EDIONELA 2001

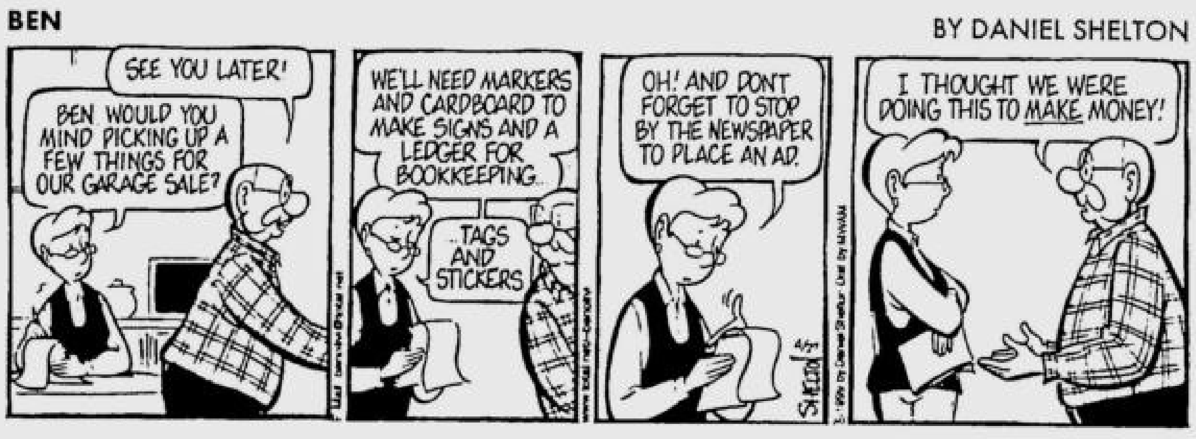
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


PARA SA SCHOOL PROJECT NAMIN ITO.
EVSARAYBLAS
MERON DIN AKONG VIDEOCAM. PAHIRAM NGA NIYAN.
8.10.1
b1gang.com.ph
TAKBO NA, BOGING! BILIS!
NANAY KO PO!
HOY! TUMIGIL KAYO!

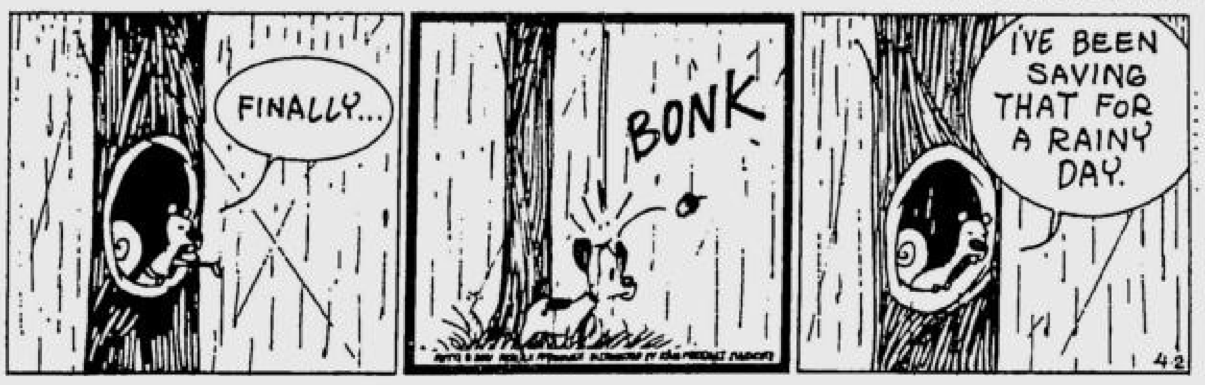
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SEE YOU LATER!
BEN WOULD YOU MIND PICKING UP A FEW THINGS FOR OUR GARAGE SALE?
WE'LL NEED MARKERS AND CARDBOARD TO MAKE SIGNS AND A LEDGER FOR BOOKKEEPING...
...TAGS AND STICKERS
OH! AND DON'T FORGET TO STOP BY THE NEWSPAPER TO PLACE AN AD.
I THOUGHT WE WERE DOING THIS TO MAKE MONEY!
SHELTON

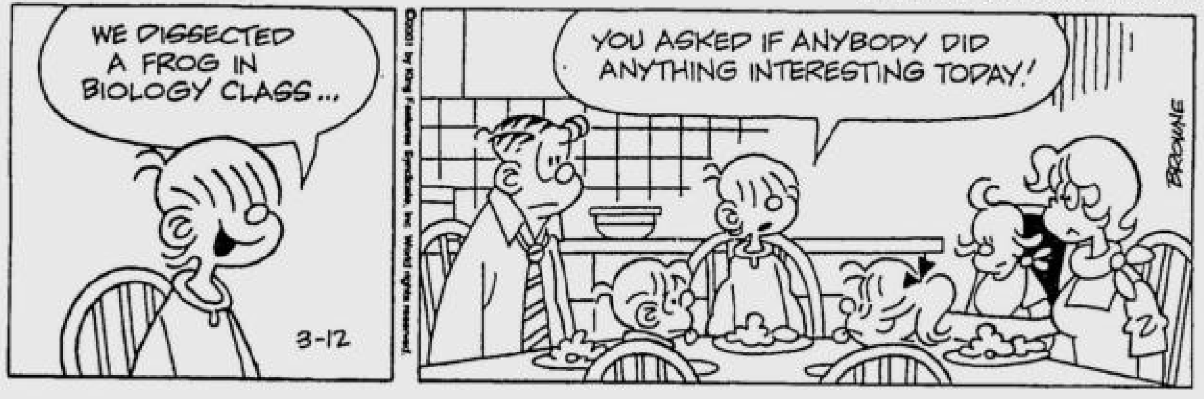
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FINALLY...
BONK
I'VE BEEN SAVING THAT FOR A RAINY DAY.
4-2

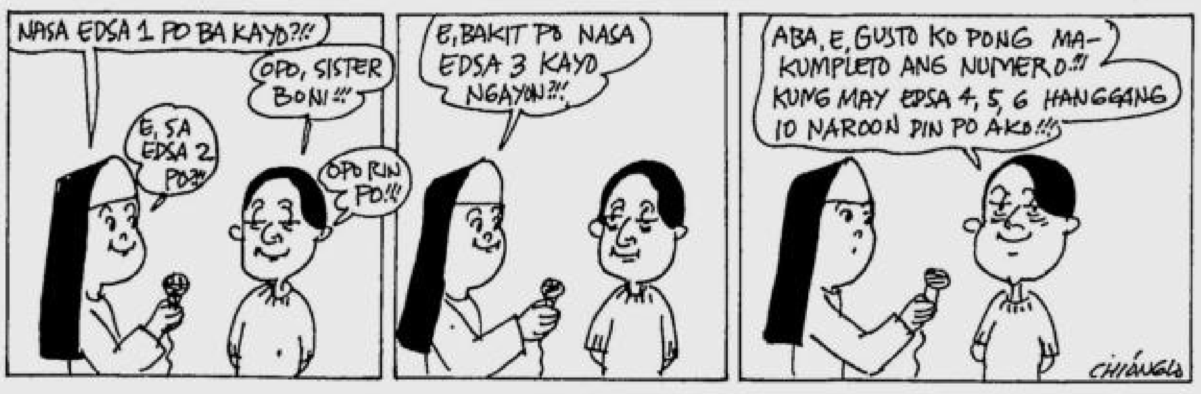
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WE DISSECTED A FROG IN BIOLOGY CLASS...
3-12
YOU ASKED IF ANYBODY DID ANYTHING INTERESTING TODAY!
BROWNE

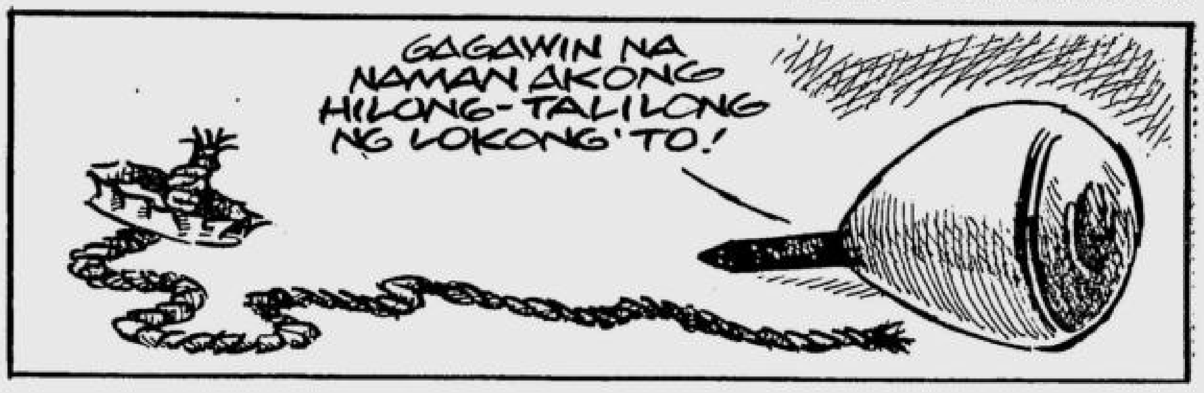
LOVEKNOTS

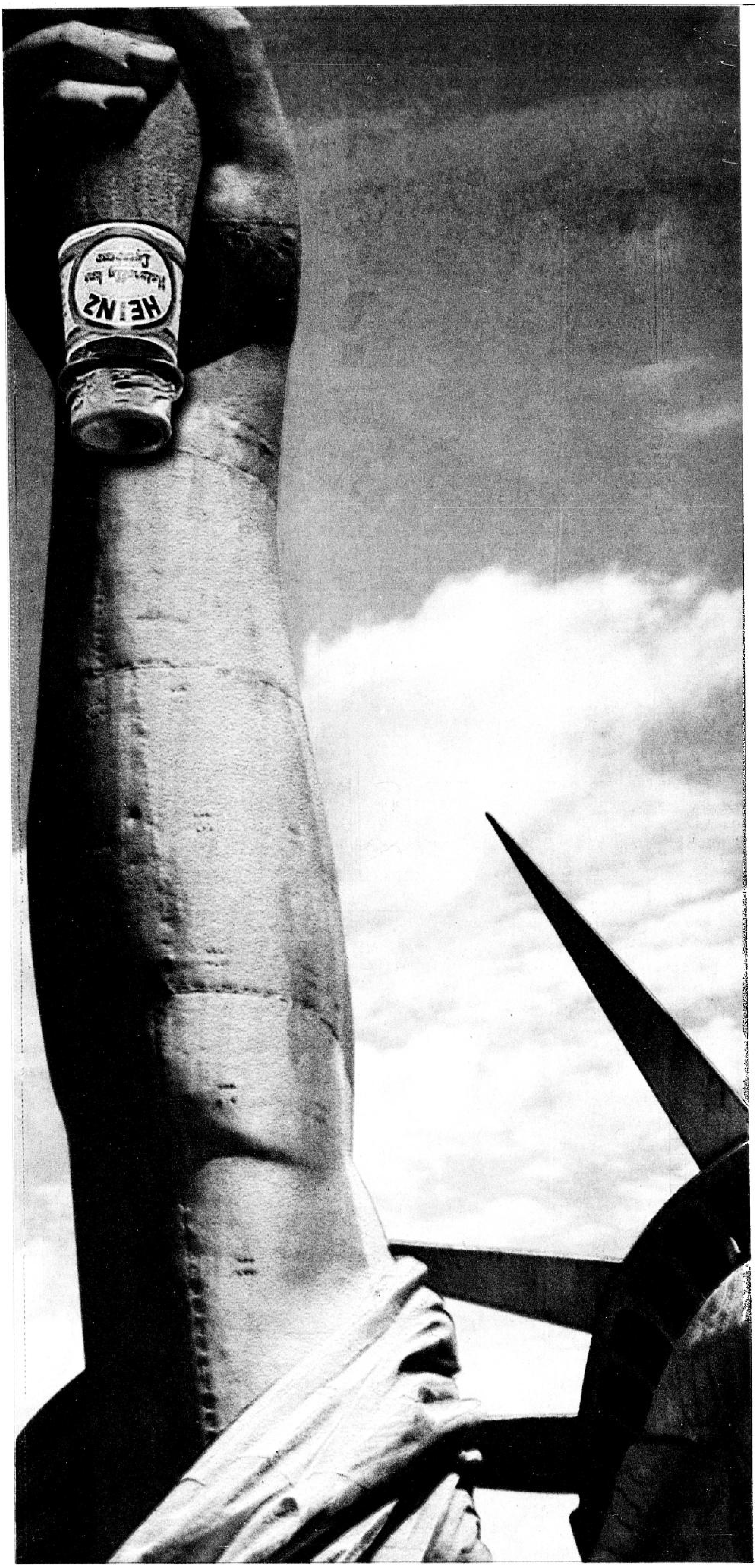
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NASA EDSA 1 PO BA KAYO?!!
OPO, SISTER BONI!!!
E, SA EDSA 2 PO?!!
OPO RIN PO!!!
E, BAKIT PO NASA EDSA 3 KAYO NGAYON?!!
ABA, E, GUSTO KO PONG MAKUMPLETO ANG NUMERO!!! KUNG MAY EDSA 4, 5, 6 HANGGANG 10 NAROON DIN PO AKO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


GAGAWIN NA NAMAN AKONG HILONG-TALILONG NG LOKONG 'TO!



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Electoral Issues	EBANTAY ISSUES	List of Watchdogs	EBANTAY WATCH	NAMFREL News Headlines	EBANTAY NAMFREL
Details of a Particular Issue	EBANTAY ISSUES <headline no.>	Details of a Watchdog	EBANTAY <name of watchdog>	NPC News Headlines	EBANTAY NPC
				COMELEC News Headlines	EBANTAY COMELEC
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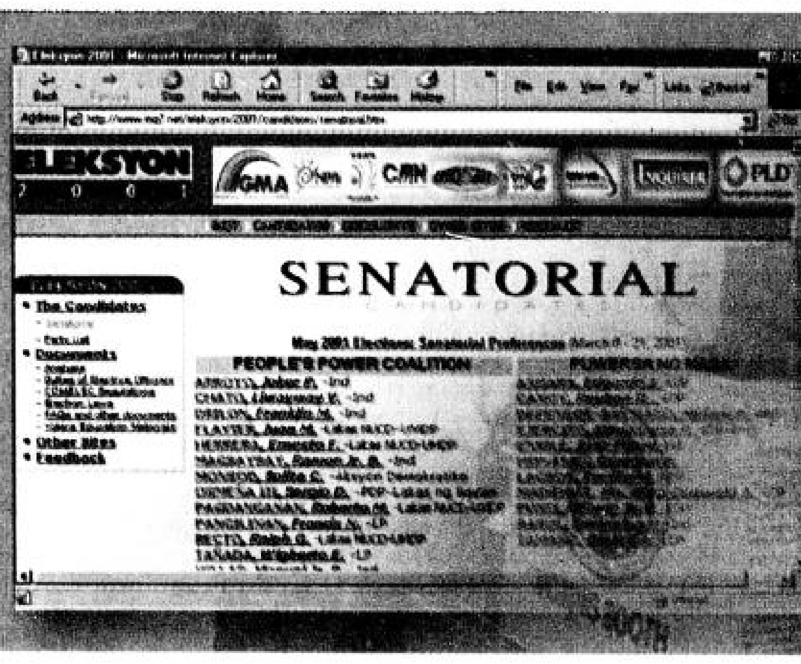
Media giants partner for May 14 elections

The country's top media organizations band together for a comprehensive and technologically advanced coverage of the upcoming polls.



By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE MAY 14 elections are a group of events that "looms as a crucial test for the people's political will and maturity."

So declares Abel Ulanday, associate editor of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. In the same way, the elections will serve as a test for seven media entities that have come together for the most comprehensive coverage of the May 14 polls.

Hatched by the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network Inc., the special coverage will also involve the Nation Broadcasting Corp., RGMA Network Inc., Radyo Veritas-Catholic Media Network, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., GMA New Media and INQ7 Interactive Inc.—the online news delivery organization jointly owned by GMA Network and the INQUIRER.

This consortium will be equal to an army of more than 1,200 field reporters and correspondents nationwide, not to mention 131 radio stations. Add to this at least 20 remote television sites and two satellite vans for live remote broadcast.

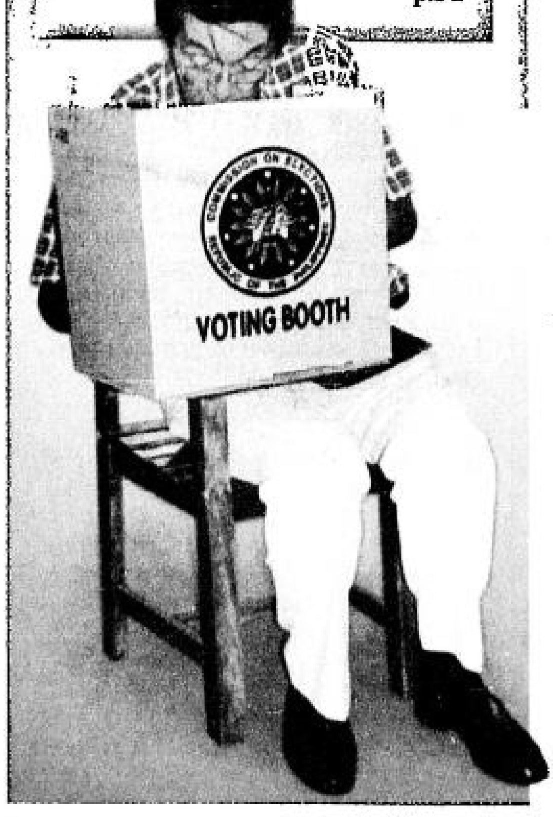
Last March, the seven media groups agreed to share information about the May 14 elections before and after the elections, all throughout the campaign period to the final tallies.

Serving as a repository of news and information for Eleksyon 2001 is a special site under INQ7.net. Accessible via www.inq7.net/eleksyon2001, the website will also deliver to surfers worldwide a real-time streaming video of the quick count to be conducted by the National Movement for Free Elections from the La Salle gymnasium in Greenhills. A webcam from the Namfrel tally site—nicknamed "Namcam"—will be set up by INQ7.net. It will feed live video from the Namfrel quick count operations center in La Salle Greenhills, giving Filipinos both here and abroad a Web view of the Namfrel tally board for them to see, in real time, who is winning in the elections.

Aside from video feeds, the actual tallies from the Comelec and Namfrel also need to be disseminated to the consortium partners as they are fed to the INQ7.net desk stationed at La Salle and at the Philippine International Convention Center for the Comelec tally. Such video and data feeds need bandwidth, and this is where PLDT and newcomer Bell Telecommunications Philippines Inc. come in. The telcos will provide the needed telecommunications and information technology facilities that INQ7.net requires to feed data to its partners and to the INQ7.net headquarters at the Rufino Building in Makati.

PLDT will specifically provide broadband connections and telephone lines to INQ7.net for the data transfer to and from the INQ7.net offices, and microwave fa-

MEDIA/ p.F2



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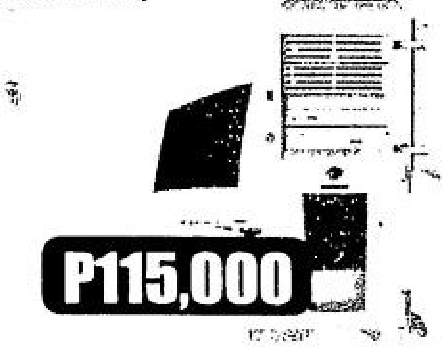

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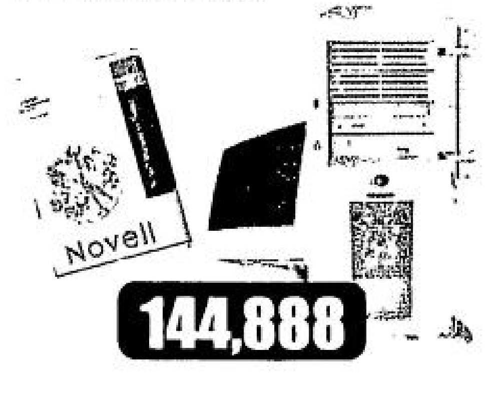

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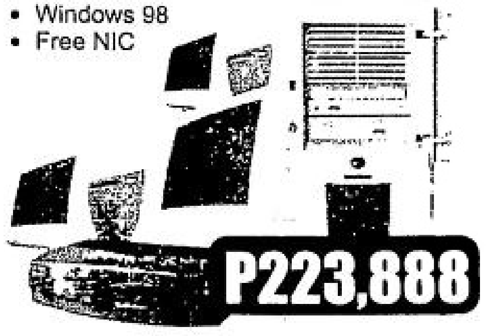

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Media giants partner for May 14 elections

(From page F1)

cilities for live remote telecast for GMA 7, according to Horace Lavides, media services division head of PLDT.

"The Internet will play a major role (in the elections) but we must admit that the number of PCs available to the population is not that big," Lavides said. "But to those with Internet connections, they will have quicker access to information."

Still, Filipinos abroad will find the service useful, according to INQ7.net vice president and executive editor Leo Magno.

"Our countrymen abroad with fast Internet connections and who are more likely to be connected to the Internet will benefit vastly from the online elections coverage to be provided by INQ7.net, considering that more than 90 percent of the website's page views come from abroad," Magno said. "Video is already happening on the Web. Broadband is already in the States with DSL (digital subscriber line) and cable going straight to residential areas. For those with no access to local TV programming, they can get Web video and elections tally data provided by INQ7.net through the Eleksyon 2001 special site."

Magno adds that the combination of real-time video via Namcam and text data via INQ7.net's breaking news and What's Happening gives Netsurfers the best of both worlds.

"Don't bet against video. It's getting there, and so is broadband," he says. "But for those without this capability yet, the universal accessibility of text data will enable surfers to get election updates fast and painlessly. They can go see the Namfrel and Comelec tallies from the site, check out the latest figures and read up on the latest via Breaking News and What's Happening."

What's Happening is a text-based, real-time running account of current events. This feature of INQ7.net will be activated all throughout the elections.

On top of this, GMA 7 has partnered with AMA Computer and Smart Communications for a "quick, quick count of the elections." The unofficial tally will get returns for the first 48 hours after the polls. INQ7.net will deliver the results of this tally at the Eleksyon 2001 site.

Also providing broadband capability to INQ7.net will be Bell Telecom, which has an innovative wireless broadband connection which can be set up fast at the tally sites since no physical lines have to be laid out. Bell Telecom thus will have a chance to showcase its wireless broadband capabilities to the world when Namcam goes in full swing.

Other solution partners which complete the election setup of INQ7.net are Media Convergence, Computer Craft, Mindgate and Cisco.

The Eleksyon 2001 website currently contains profiles of the candidates running for senator, news and analysis on election-related events and personalities, FAQs on the elections and links to election-related websites.

"The project will make the INQUIRER part of a comprehensive election coverage, an event that now looms as a crucial test for our people's political will and maturity. The INQUIRER will specifically tap its reporters, correspondents and news bureaus to file the latest election reports from the field as well as participate in live broadcast of unfolding events through its editors and commentators," said the INQUIRER's Ulanday. "The Internet will bring news and commentaries faster to its audience, as well as provide in-depth analysis and backgrounders on the political event."

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Destiny Cable closes door on merger plans

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

DESTINY Cable Inc. ended speculations on the possible merger with the new cable giant created out of the union of SkyCable and Home Cable which merged their operations last month.

Destiny officials, however, admitted that there were "informal" talks between Destiny and representatives from the two companies. Sky Vision is a company of the Lopez-owned Benpres Holdings, while Home Cable is managed by Mediaquest, a subsidiary of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

"We don't want to absorb their problems," said David Lim, president of Destiny Inc. He stressed that Destiny, which is now a fully owned subsidiary of the Solid Group Inc., is not desperate enough to allow itself to be gobbled up by the new cable operator behemoth. "If Destiny will do that, there will be no choice for subscribers. We're losing money but we're not desperate."

Lim stressed that Destiny is "comfortable where it is now, financially.

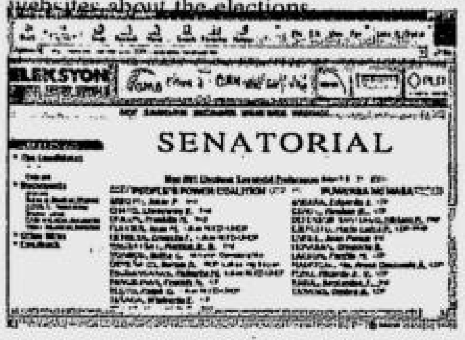
ELECTION WEBSITES

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

JUST like the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada and the People Power II Revolution, the May 14 elections are a group of events in history that has spawned websites of different shapes and sizes.

From serious commentary and news to the not-so-serious satirical websites, Filipinos have once again used their talents to bring information on the greatest political show in the Philippines.

Below are several of the interesting websites about the elections.



Eleksyon 2001
(www.inq7.net/eleksyon/2001)

This election website is the official repository of news and information of the special poll coverage of seven media giants, including the Philippine Daily Inquirer, GMA Network Inc., Nation Broadcasting Corp., RGMA Network Inc., Radyo Veritas-Catholic Media Network, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and new media companies INQ7 Interactive Inc. and GMA New Media Inc. Currently, it features up-to-date news, analysis and information related to the May 14 polls. Later, the website will deliver live video feed of the quick count from the National Movement for Free Elections headquarters using Internet streaming technology.

Halalan 2001
(www.halalan2001.com)

A website that claims to be a "citizen-led initiative in response to the challenge for the private sector to contribute and invest in Information and Communications Technology," Halalan 2001 hopes to provide candidates a venue where they can "introduce" themselves to the Filipino electorate frequenting the Web. It also contains information on election laws, Commission on Elections rules and regulations, among others. It also features all the registered political parties. A senatorial mock poll, involving more than 1,000 voters, was conducted on February and the results are presented in the website.

Pinoy Elections
(www.pinoyelections.net)

Just like other election websites, Pinoy Elections features election-related articles and profiles of candidates. It also contains an online forum to facilitate discussion of issues. It also has mock polls. Creators of the Pinoylahat.com, a portal of Filipino-related websites, are behind Pinoy Elections.

Who to vote
(www.whotovote.com)

This website was founded on August 2000. The website is meant to educate Filipino voters about the upcoming polls. If you want to see the list of candidates in a specific area in the Philippines, you can actually click the location on a computer graphic of the Philippine map. It also has a "freedom wall" that allows you to post any rants and raves about a candidate. Guess who gets all the "praises." Some sections of the website, however, are still under construction.

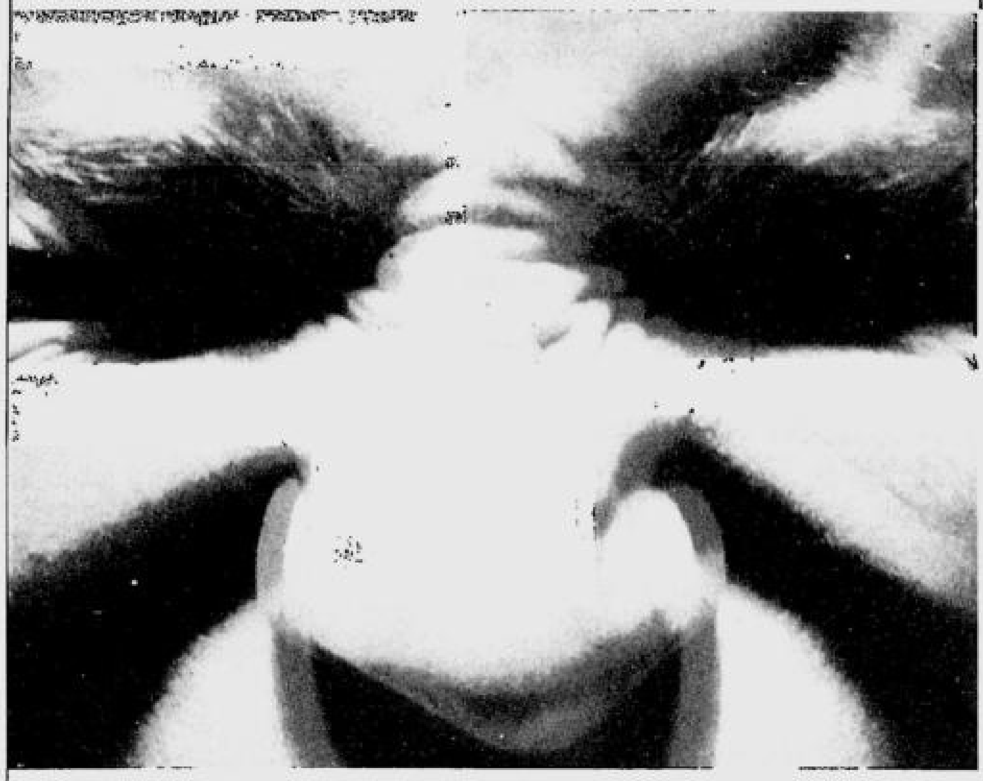
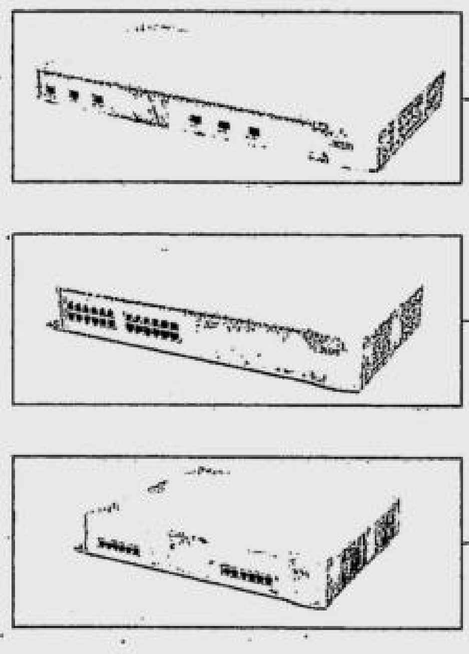
E-leksiyon
(www.e-leksiyon.com)

A website aiming to "have anything and everything people need to make an intelligent choice for the May 2001 elections." But it tries to make sure that all information are unbiased, nonpartisan, nonsectoral and plain educational. No frills but a bit of thrills. It also contains some election-related gossip.

Senatoriables
(http://members.theglobe.com/wingert/senatoriables.html)

Here's an election website created by an individual who has "predicted" the outcome of the May 14 elections. Louie, 18, an incoming junior at the University of Sto. Tomas created this site to highlight his choice of candidates for senator. Unfortunately, Louie was unable to register, so this is one vote wasted.

ELECTION/ p.F4

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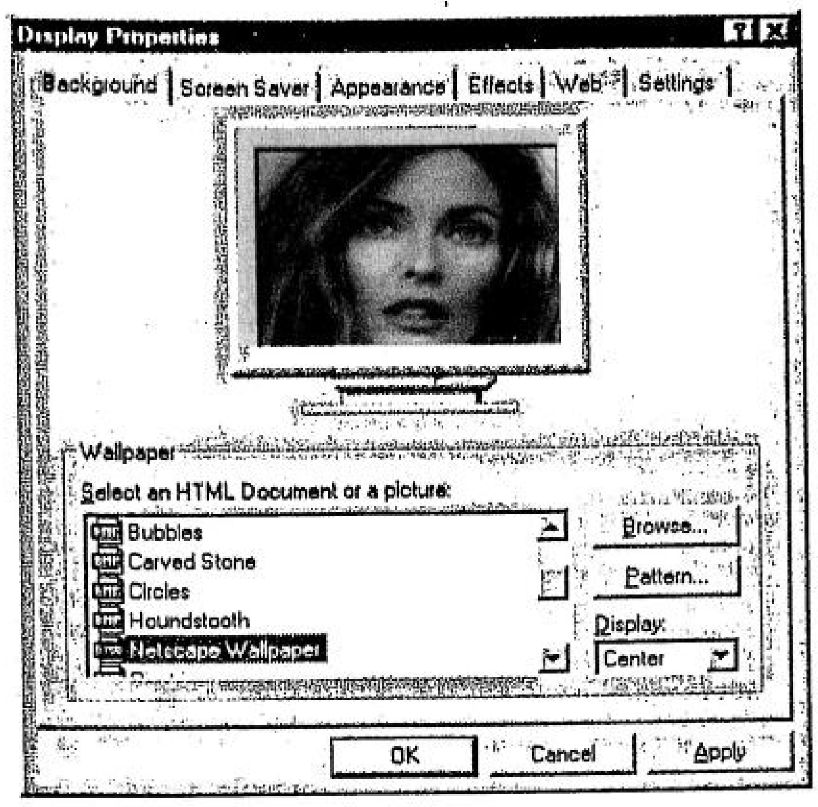

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- Netscape Wallpaper

Browse...

Pattern...

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OK Cancel Apply

Customize your wallpaper with Active Desktop

BY JERRY LIAO

USING the regular wallpaper configuration setting, you could have your favorite photo centered, tiled or stretched on your desktop. But did you know that you can place multiple images on the desktop to create a collage effect? Here's how:

POWERTIPS

(1) Right-click on your desktop and choose "Properties."

(2) Under the "Background" tab, choose a backdrop that will display your pictures prominently.

(3) Under "Display," select "Tile."

(4) Click on the "Web" tab

(5) Activate "View my Active Desktop as a webpage" by clicking on the check box.

(6) Click New (Click "No" at the prompt sign if you want to visit the Active Desktop gallery).

(7) The "New Active Desktop Item" will be displayed. Click "Browse."

(8) Locate one of the images that you want to use on the desktop then click "OK."

(9) Repeat steps 6 to 8 depending on the number of images you want to place on your desktop.

(10) After you have placed all the desired images, click "OK."

(11) To change the position of your images, simply click on the image and you'll see a frame appearing around it. Click on this frame and then, using your mouse, drag the image to where you want it to be placed.

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Web-based payroll application launched

BY GERRY A. PLAZA

OUTSOURCING has proven to be a cost-effective alternative for companies in the new economy, with key processes handled by third-party firms.

A welcome turn in the outsourcing trend is the availability of mission-critical business applications and services from third parties, particularly those deployed through the Web. Local applications provider Titanium Technologies recently launched its offering for the emerging Web-based outsourced applications market, specifically in the area of payroll services.

The recently released Titanium ePayroll is considered an outsourced yet comprehensive Web-based payroll application that could well allow companies to focus instead on their core competencies and revenue-generating activities. The solution covers timekeeping, payroll and human resources. The package offers an end-to-end solution, allowing company officers to upload time data, trigger computation, receive reports, approve payroll and authorize bank remittances through the Web.

To use the system, companies should subscribe to Titanium's ePayroll service costing a fixed monthly fee. The fee is inclusive of systems maintenance, software upgrades and technical support. Reports that can be generated through ePayroll include attendance summary, payroll summary, ATM reports, payslips, remittances of statutory deductions, salary history and others. Details on the application can be obtained from www.epayroll.ph.

Egghead lands in RP

EGGHEAD Systems and Networks Inc., a company which specializes in corporate solutions such as customer relationship management (CRM) and network security applications, is now making its presence felt in the Philippine market.

Founded in 1998, one of Egghead's corporate clients is telecommunications giant Globe Telecom. Egghead was responsible for designing and implementing the Globe Fixed Network Group's customer support automation system and application management software.

Egghead is also a certified business partner of SalesLogix which provides the company with the capability to rapidly implement, customize and design CRM solutions. Egghead is also a certified Microsoft solutions provider of Windows NT, SQL Server and MS Exchange.

"We at Egghead know that we need to work doubly hard to make clients find the business solutions easy to understand and easy to implement," says Egghead president Glenn C. Jao. "That's why we make it a point to partner with a client from start to finish, working with them in defining objectives, identifying problem areas and tailoring solutions that address their needs squarely."

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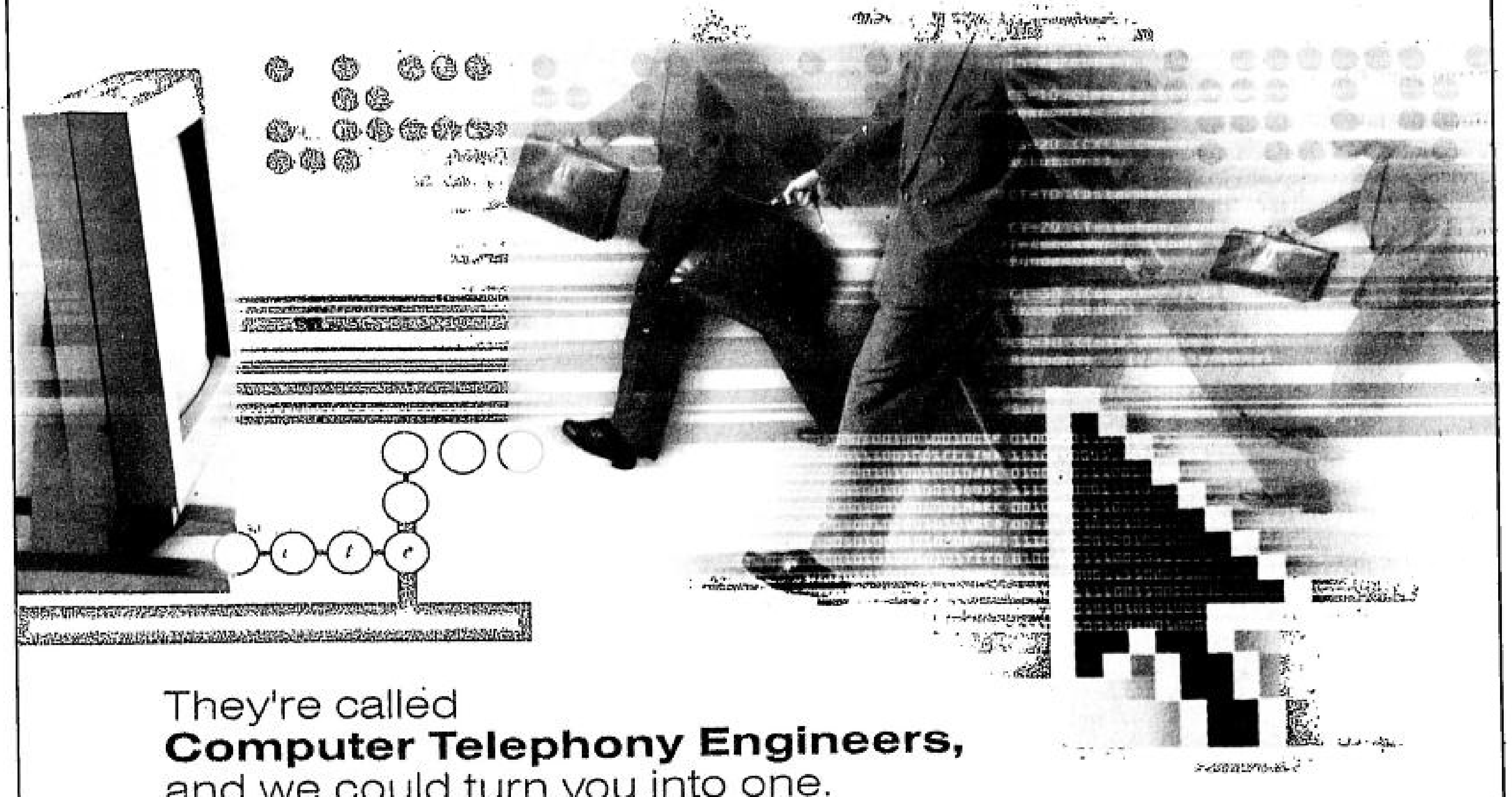

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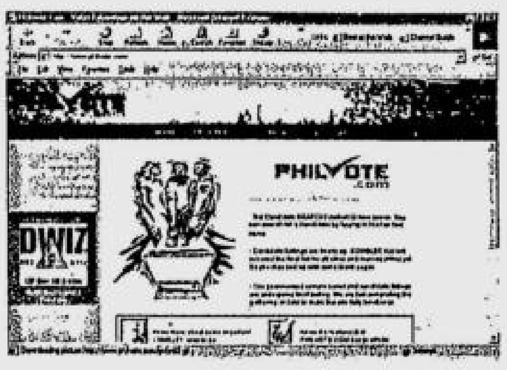
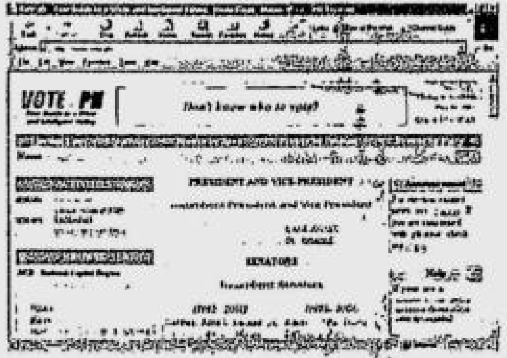
ELECTION WEBSITES

(From page F2)



Philvote.com
(www.philvote.com)

This website was created because someone had to do it, according to the site's creators. Just like the others, it aims to educate, and use the Internet as a medium to do just that. Aside from information about the candidates, it also has an online poll, forums, a chatroom, a feedback facility, and news. You can register at the website and have access to information about a candidate. The website also claims to allow people to print out a sample ballot which they can later carry to the polling center. Interestingly, Philvote.com offers webpage creation services to candidates wanting to post 11 webpages of data about them on the site.

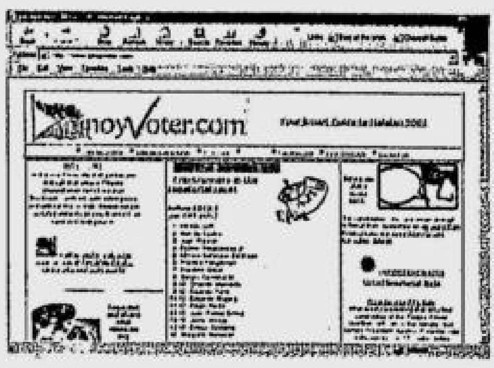


Vote.ph
(www.vote.ph)

A useful online directory and quick reference for the May 14 elections. The website was created by Washington Altor, a systems engineer at a startup company who now holds a master's degree in Computer Science from De La Salle University. It has an easy-to-navigate interface to all the information about the candidates, plus regional candidate data not available in other sites.

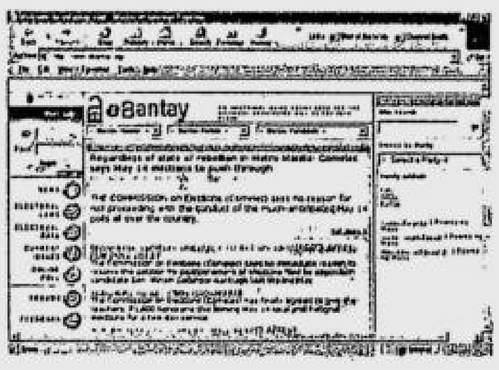
Philvoter.com
(www.philvoter.com)

Another website that is nonpartisan. Contains the Commission on Elections' calendar of activities, information on candidates (plus party-list candidates), pertinent laws on elections including prohibited acts as specified by Comelec rules and regulations. A sober way of presenting election-related information.



Pinoyvoter.com
(http://www.pinoyvoter.com/)

Satire. This best describes this website. The website's creators claim that this site will "guide you through that unique Filipino phenomenon called Halalan (Elections)—with wit, with intelligence and without fear or bias."



E-bantay
(http://www.ebantay.org)

Created by the Filipinos for Reform and Empowerment through Education, Enterprise and Electronic Media (FREE3), the website considers itself the "watchdog" on the Web during the May 14 elections. News, commentaries, polls, a list of candidates and even a sample ballot that could be generated from the website, are staples in the site. The site also aims to provide an unofficial quick count after May 14.

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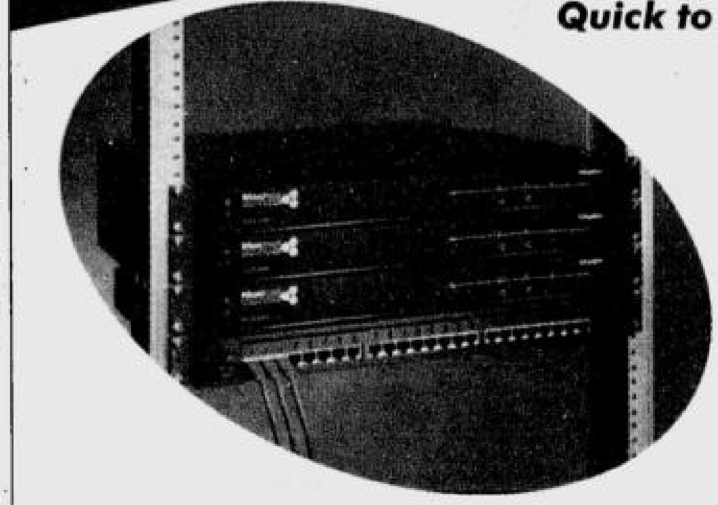

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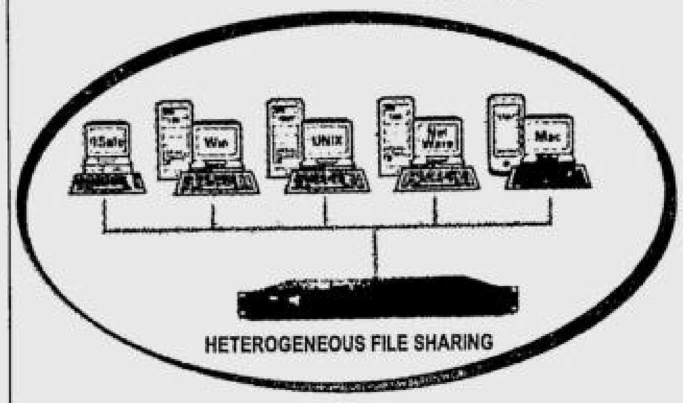

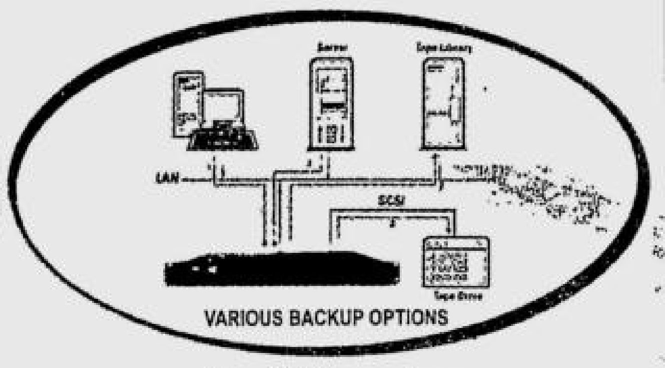

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